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'Halevy, Levine to head Mossad'

By JAY BUSHINSKY and EITAN RABIN
 Former deputy Mossad head Ephraim Halevy will take over as the new head of the Mossad, with OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine acting as his deputy, sources said late last night. The two men reportedly agreed

Mossad agents were on assassination mission, Page 2

on the appointments in meetings yesterday with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Halevy will be in charge of managing the entire organization, while Levine will act as head of operations and special assignments.

The sources noted that this was the first time Netanyahu had met with the two since the resignation of Danny Yatom last week.

One source confirmed that the appointments had been discussed, but added that the prime minister would make his final decision today. Netanyahu also discussed his choice for Mossad leader in a meeting yesterday with Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak.

Yatom tendered his resignation following the release of the Cichanover Committee's report on the assassination attempt on Hamas leader Khaled Masha'al in Jordan last September, and last month's arrest of a Mossad agent in Switzerland.

Shahak: Syria will block Lebanon withdrawal

By LIAT COLLINS

Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak reportedly told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday that he does not believe Syria will let Lebanon reach an agreement with Israel without its blessing.

A senior military intelligence officer also reportedly told the committee that there has been a united Lebanese rejection of the Israeli suggestion of an IDF withdrawal from south Lebanon on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 425 with Lebanese guarantees. This is presumed to stem from Syrian pressure; Damascus apparently fears that Israel intends to split the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, in a bid to reduce Syrian leverage over Israel in negotiations.

See SHAHAK, Page 2

Maccabi TA loses in Bologna

Teamsystem Bologna took a 1-0 lead over Maccabi Tel Aviv Tel Aviv in their EuroLeague final-16 playoff series last night. The Italian team, playing at home, won 96-93 in overtime. Maccabi will have the chance to level the best-of-three series when the two teams meet in Game 2 at Yad Eliahu tomorrow night. Full story, Page 20.

Weizman tipped to win 2nd term



The outcome of the presidential race between Ezer Weizman (left) and Shaul Amur should be known this afternoon. (Isaac Harari)

It was never a serious race

Should Likud MK Shaul Amur become president, it will be a major political upset. For the first time in the country's history, he will have defeated an incumbent president seeking a second term.

This would have far-ranging political ramifications. But it isn't going to happen.

Unless all the signals coming from the Knesset are radically misleading, Amur will lose today. His greatest achievement will have been keeping his candidacy ostensibly viable for so long and raising tensions so high. It is, of course, a moot point whether it was ever a close call, or whether political correspondents were tooting Amur's horn to drum up stories for themselves.

If an indication of Amur's true chances were needed, it was offered by Shas yesterday. Never a party to bet on the losing horse, Shas refrained from openly endorsing Amur, even though he is Sephardi and a champion of the have-nots — just what Shas claims to be. Despite the natural affinity to Amur, there has been no clear-cut directive from Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef obliging the

10 Shas MKs to vote for him. Sephardi solidarity may not be all it's cracked up to be — envy and fear of rivalry may be more potent forces.

But Shas is a perfect yardstick, because its head Aryeh Deri may need presidential good will if he is convicted. He dares not antagonize Weizman, realizing full well that he is likely to win, and realizing, equally well, that Amur is not likely to.

The only thing Deri can't be sure about is the margin of Weizman's win. The bandwagon effect may confer a comfortable majority on Weizman — if not a landslide. But Amur may benefit from the underdog effect and draw votes from those who feel sorry for him, while feeling confident that Weizman will be reelected in any case.

The plain fact is that Amur never stood a chance, and that even the Likud which sponsored him never figured otherwise. It would therefore be wrong to ascribe any significant political implications to

this contest. An Amur loss will be nothing for Labor to crow about, nor for the Likud to lose heart over.

If this was a great Likud-Labor showdown, surely the Likud would have come up with a more imposing candidate. A significant body of opinion in his own party judged Amur unsuitable for the high office he sought, and hence the many defections expected in Likud ranks, as against the minimal defections in Labor. There may be surprises due to the protection afforded rebel MKs by the secret ballot, but more coalition MKs are expected to side with Weizman than opposition MKs with Amur.

This is the case even though Weizman's careless outbursts and irrepressible volatility — on subjects ranging from the Oslo process to gays — have made him plenty of enemies on both sides of the political divide. Meretz MK Dedi Zucker hit the nail on the head when he argued that "Weizman is lucky he is up

against someone like Amur. Had a more impressive challenger run against him, he would have been in deep trouble."

This leaves us with the question of what the Likud and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were thinking when they went for Amur. If they were seriously going to take on Weizman, they would have had to field someone else and construct a solid coalition front.

In all likelihood, they simply did not take the race seriously at first. Netanyahu could not get chronic malcontent Amur off his back nor dissuade him from running. No one expected the media hype and intense speculation that Amur is within reach of his goal.

Most "worst scenario" predictions gave Weizman at least two to five votes more than the mandatory 61. Fewer than 61 votes in the first round would force a second round, in which Weizman would be expected to increase his majority.

While United Torah Judaism and the United Arab Party maintained their silence about which way they would vote in the secret ballot, Shas announced that its MKs would be

By BATSHEVA TSUR

As the Knesset prepared for this morning's vote for state president, both the coalition and the opposition were predicting that incumbent Ezer Weizman would defeat MK Shaul Amur and win a second term.

In a surprise move, coalition whip Meir Sheetrit (Likud) forecast that Weizman would win by a comfortable majority "although Amur [the Likud candidate] will get more votes than expected." Sheetrit told Educational TV's *Erev Hadash* that coalition discipline had not been imposed, so MKs are free to vote as they see fit.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, interviewed on Channel 1, predicted a close race "with a slight majority to Weizman."

No one yesterday would predict which party held the key to Beit Hanassi. Labor remained firmly behind Weizman. Amur could apparently count on most of the votes from Likud-Gesher-Tsomet, although Weizman had received about 10 promises, including public endorsement from Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert. The nine Meretz votes were assured Weizman after Dedi Zucker announced he would return to the fold, "after making sure Weizman had to sweat for a victory."

The Third Way is behind Weizman with all four votes. But analysts warned that, because of the large number of false promises made to both sides, there could be an unexpected victory for Amur, which would make him the first candidate ever to beat an incumbent president, or, as MK Ariel Sharon phrased it, "the first president of Second Israel."

Nevertheless, most MKs who had publicly supported Amur's nomination appeared downcast, talking about a close race which Weizman would win.

Amur, with a handful of trusted helpers, appeared to be the only one still handing out assurances that he would be victorious. "I have a good feeling," he said, declining to grant lengthy interviews.

Sitting in the Knesset cafeteria yesterday, Amur was approached by journalists and visitors, but few MKs. The NRP's Hanan Porat and Labor's Eitan Cabel came up to shake his hand. "Shalom, Mr. President," the latter said to the clearly tired and dejected candidate.

Most "worst scenario" predictions gave Weizman at least two to five votes more than the mandatory 61. Fewer than 61 votes in the first round would force a second round, in which Weizman would be expected to increase his majority.

While United Torah Judaism and the United Arab Party maintained their silence about which way they would vote in the secret ballot, Shas announced that its MKs would be

free to choose the candidate they feel is best. Amur apparently failed to get a sought-after public blessing from Shas spiritual mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, although he had informally blessed him earlier at a function hosted by Yaffa Deri, wife of MK Aryeh Deri. Weizman aides are hoping for at least three votes from Shas.

Aryeh Shumer, Weizman's bureau chief, also had numerous meetings with rabbinical circles, including those close to Shas and

Knesset readies for vote, Page 3

UTJ mentors Rabbis Nissim Karlitz and Haim Kanyevsky.

Weizman also appeared to have possibly gained a vote or two from wavering NRP MKs, one of whom, Avner Shaki, visited Beit Hanassi yesterday. At least one NRP MK admitted that he believes Amur does not stand a chance.

Yisrael Ba'aliya is expected to give four votes to Weizman, two to Amur, and to have one abstention, MK Roman Bronfman said. Moledet is expected to split its two votes. One thing that all could agree on was that this has been an extremely intensive and unpleasant campaign. "There are a lot of liars and cheats in this Knesset," declared Maxim Levy (Gesher), who said he would introduce a bill on electing the president by referendum.

Weizman and his supporters branded the ugly campaign tactics on the introduction of the ethnic factor into the race. The president reportedly said: "I feel I have to apologize for being a sabra."

This led several MKs of Sephardi descent to make public apologies. Sheetrit stated on television that he is "deeply upset" that an ethnic factor had been introduced. Eli Ben-Menahem (Labor) said the so-called attempt to unite the nation by giving a chance to "the Second Israel" could lead to greater divisiveness, and that ethnicity has no place after 50 years of independence.

The Weizman camp, however, refused to publicly condemn Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for nominating a candidate against an incumbent president who, according to the polls, had clearly won wide support from the general public.

Weizman ended his first term of office yesterday attending a conference of local council heads, receiving callers, visiting the families in Haifa and Bat Yam of the two airmen killed in Sunday's F-15 crash, and swearing in rabbinical court judges yesterday evening.

Security Council does not restrict future military action against Iraq

By MARILYN HENRY and news agencies

NEW YORK — The Security Council, in endorsing UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's deal with Iraq on weapons inspections, did not authorize an automatic military response if Baghdad reneges — but it did not restrict it either.

The US declared it had received a green light after the 15-member council on Monday night passed a resolution endorsing Annan's February 23 agreement with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Under that pact, UN weapons inspectors are to have unfettered access to Iraqi sites, including eight "presidential" locations that can be inspected with diplomatic chaperones.

Although the council vote was unanimous, it was understood as a rebuff to the US and Britain, who sought an explicit warning of a military response if Saddam refuses to open all sites.

At the Israeli Mission to the UN, a spokesman would not comment directly on the council's resolution. "This is strictly between Saddam Hussein and the UN," the spokesman said, noting that Israel is not eligible to sit on the council and did not participate in the vote.

"This resolution reinforces the US policy, President [Bill] Clinton's policy, of diplomacy backed by force," said US Ambassador Bill Richardson. "It does not restrict the use of force as a response of an Iraqi violation of the secretary-general's agreement."

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz yesterday said his country would live up to the agreement. "We have signed an agreement with the UN secretary-general. We are committed to the terms of the agreement and nothing else from our side," he said in a statement carried by the official Iraqi News Agency INA.

Meanwhile, the FBI has learned that an Iraqi spy passed Pentagon information about plans for a US attack to a senior intelligence official in Baghdad, *The Washington Times* reported yesterday.

The paper said the FBI began investigating shortly after officials learned that the Iraqis were informed by "a US person" in late January that a much-anticipated strike could take place within two weeks and involve large-scale attacks by so-called smart bombs and missiles.

Citing intelligence officials speaking on condition of anonymity, the *Times* said the spy search began in early February when US agencies learned that the agent, whose last name is known to the FBI, tipped off a senior member of the Iraqi intelligence service about US military planning.

The sources told the paper the spy told Iraq the attack would last five days and that information about the attack was obtained from a source in Washington who regularly receives information from the Pentagon.

Annan due here on March 24

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan is due to make his first official trip to Israel later this month. Annan is scheduled to visit Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, and the Gaza Strip before arriving in Jerusalem on March 24. Annan will be accompanied during his two-day stay in Israel by UN Ambassador Dore Gold.

His plans to visit in February were canceled because of the tensions with Iraq. Marilyn Henry



Jerusalem firefighters inspect the smoldering ruins of the squatter village opposite the Prime Minister's Office yesterday. (Brian Hendler)

Capital squatters' village burns down

By ELI WOHLGELER

A squatter village of homeless Israelis set up on a hill opposite the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem was destroyed by fire yesterday. A dozen of the 18 wooden and tin structures burned to the ground, but the only casualty in the blaze was one rottweiler dog. Police say the fire was probably

caused by a careless inhabitant leaving on a kerosene heater, which sparked the blaze.

Fire and Rescue Department officials said residents would have to relocate temporarily. But when administrators from the capital's welfare department came to help the families move to temporary quarters, they were met by staunch opposition.

The police say that maybe now

it's worthwhile for us to go live with our families," said Michal Levy. "but we think that if we leave our encampment here, which we've kept up for three years, the government will clear it up overnight. If we leave now, the entire three years will have gone down the drain. And we're not going to give up."

See VILLAGE, Page 2

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NEWS

in brief

Hassan slams Israeli 'obstinacy'

Moroccan King Hassan II yesterday accused Israel of "obstinacy" that is destroying the hopes for Mideast peace, during a speech marking the 37th anniversary of his ascension to the throne. "The hope that was brought by the Oslo Accords to the Middle East is evaporating under the effects of the obstinacy of the Israeli government," Hassan said.

He accused Israel of "turning its back on all the signed commitments, persevering in arrogance and exposing its citizens and those of all the region to dangerous tensions." AP

Bentsur going to Europe with PM

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is to be accompanied by Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur on his trip later this week to Spain, Germany, Norway, and the United Kingdom. The prime minister is scheduled to leave for Madrid on Thursday and to return home on Sunday. Jay Bushinsky

Jerusalem Arabs protest government policies

Arabs in eastern Jerusalem staged a business and school strike yesterday, under orders from Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah organization, in protest against government policies. Police reported several incidents of violence, including stones thrown at police and passing motorists. No injuries were reported. Leaflets calling for the strike said "The danger to Jerusalem has never been as great as it is today. Israel is carrying out policies that make any city in the world more accessible to us than Jerusalem." Elli Wohlgeleit

Taxi, bus fatally hit woman

A 20-year-old woman from Ma'aleh Adumim was killed at Kikar Shabbat in Jerusalem around noon yesterday. She had been crossing the street when an Egged bus hit her, pushing her into the path of a taxi, which also hit her. Police questioned the bus driver and set up road blocks around Jerusalem in an attempt to catch the taxi driver. Itim

Jordan testifies to US grand jury

Vernon Jordan, a top Washington lawyer who is one of US President Bill Clinton's closest confidants, gave crucial testimony yesterday to a grand jury investigating sex and cover-up allegations involving Clinton. Jordan was the first central figure in the White House sex scandal to be summoned to answer questions under oath.

Jordan's testimony represented a dramatic step forward in the 5-week-old investigation as he has first-hand knowledge about the events concerning the relationship between Clinton and former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Jordan has said both Lewinsky and Clinton told him they had no sexual relationship. Reuters

Report: Captured Mossad agents were on assassination mission

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON — The Mossad agents who were apprehended in Switzerland on February 19 were not on a phone-bugging mission, but were planning to assassinate two businessmen suspected of helping acquire biological and chemical weapons for Hizbullah, according to *The London Times*.

This, along with further revelations about internal dissent within the intelligence agency, was disclosed in an interview with an unnamed Mossad officer in the agency's Brussels-based European directorate, published yesterday.

The officer told the paper the mission was to assassinate two businessmen suspected of helping Hizbullah acquire biological and chemical weapons from Eastern Europe and ship them to the Middle East via the Balkans.

The officer, added the *Times*, was interviewed in England and revealed that at least one member of the squad that bungled the attempt to assassinate Hamas activist Khaled Masha'al in Amman last September was among the Mossad team apprehended in Switzerland.

The officer said one of the targets had been Abdullah Zein, whose telephone, according to the published "sanitized version," was in the process of being bugged when a suspicious neighbor called police to the building in the Bern suburb of Liebenfeld.

The officer said the operation was aimed at killing Zein, 32, a Shi'ite Moslem from south

Lebanon who had lived in Switzerland for several years, as well as another businessman, using the same poison that had been used in the Masha'al attack.

The officer was quoted as saying: "The attempt on Masha'al's life failed when, instead of spraying the toxin into his ear, from where it should have traveled to the brain, causing hemorrhage and death within six to 18 hours, the poison struck his neck and collar." He added that "the Israeli spy (in Bern) was caught in possession of 'suspicious objects,' according to the Swiss police. It appears these were deadly aerosol sprays developed by Mossad chemists."

"When a bulb concealed in the palm of the hand is squeezed, a powerful nerve agent squirts through a nozzle protruding from the clenched fingers of the agent's fist," he said.

The officer said the Swiss operation had been approved by outgoing Mossad head Danny Yatom in an effort to salvage his reputation and that it had been opposed "root and branch" by career officers within the service. He said that was why a top Mossad field officer resigned abruptly late last month and that the resignations of three senior operations officers would come soon.

The *Times* commented that, in making the disclosures, the "disgruntled" officer "appeared to be motivated by a desire to influence the appointment of Mr. Yatom's successor, now a subject of heated argument within Israel's defense establishment."

To Nora and Family

Our deepest condolences on the passing of your sister

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With deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved father and grandfather

ARJEH (Leo) ADASSI - CZUCZKA

The funeral will take place tomorrow, Thursday, March 5, at 11:00 a.m. at the Sde Yehoshua Cemetery, Brosh Gate.

Eli, Tony, Jehudah Adashi

A bus will leave at 10:30 a.m. from the B'nai B'rith Parents Home, 20/22 Horev St., Haifa



Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat (left) meets yesterday with cabinet secretary Dan Naveh.

(Brian Heavill)

'Safe passage' talks stall

By JAY BUSHINSKY and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Israeli-Palestinian efforts to work out a "safe passage" arrangement between the Gaza Strip and West Bank deadlocked yesterday, prompting cabinet secretary Dan Naveh and Palestinian Authority negotiator Saeb Erekat to set another session for next week.

"There are significant gaps," Naveh said, "and we demand that the operative procedures of the passage assure security."

The main argument is over the supervision of travelers from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank, Itim reported. The Palestinians want passage to be more liberal, while Israel insists on strict controls over crossing points and routes.

Especially divisive was the proposed checkpoint along the northern route, which, according to the Oslo Accords, is supposed to be near Mevo Horon. To pinpoint its location now would be tantamount to demarcating the border between Israel and the PA, something Israel prefers to postpone until the negotiations on a final agreement.

Attending the meeting along with Naveh and Erekat were Internal Security Ministry Director-General Eyal Falant and his Palestinian counterpart, Gen. Abdel Ythye.

Erekat told reporters the Palestinians are waiting for a US proposal that would break the deadlock. He accused Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of destroying the peace process by refusing to implement the agreements signed with the Palestinians.

"Discussions involving the subcommittees need time," he said. "The industrial zone was discussed on Monday and yesterday we discussed the safe passages and prisoner release. We hope the US will be able to find ways to ensure that the accord will be implemented on the ground."

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's adviser Marwan Kanfani said the only way progress will be made is if the US intervenes and takes a more active role.

The Voice of Palestine Radio reported that Arafat discussed the peace process with Shimon Peres by phone last night, and

expressed hope progress would be made.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton met with senior advisers yesterday to try to revive the peace process. State Department

spokesman James Rubin rejected reports the administration had presented a peace plan and described the White House meeting as part of "an internal process to try to see whether there are steps we can take to revitalize the increasingly moribund Middle East peace process."

We have grave concerns about this. There hasn't been any progress. Neither of the parties is making the hard decisions that need to be taken. And we're looking at ways to revitalize it."

The participants included Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Vice President Al Gore, National Security Adviser Sandy Berger, White House chief of staff Erskine Bowles, senior Mideast mediator Dennis Ross, and Martin Indyk, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs.

Hillel Kuttler and Mohammed Najib contributed to this report.

Intelligence sources: Iran thawing towards Israel

By EITAN RABIN and news agencies

Security and intelligence sources said yesterday that Iranian President Mohammed Khatami's call for security and stability in Lebanon represents a gradual turnaround in Iranian policy.

"Instability in Lebanon is against the interests of the region and Iran is determined to help establish calm, security, unity and growth in Lebanon," Khatami was quoted by the official Islamic Republic News Agency as saying.

The agency did not say what steps Iran intends to take to ensure stability in Lebanon. Khatami made the comments during a meeting with a visiting Lebanese minister, Walid Jumblatt, who is responsible for the affairs of war refugees.

AFP reported that Jumblatt told a news conference in Tehran he would consider joining Hizbullah in order to expand the opposition to Israel's presence in south Lebanon. Israeli sources who have been monitoring Khatami's statements since he was elected president last year said his comment on Lebanon

is very significant because it points to a moderation in the position of Iran, which supports Hizbullah.

One source estimated that Iran would support an agreement with Syria on an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, if France and the United States put pressure on Damascus to accept such a deal.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai yesterday held consultations with senior IDF officers and intelligence officials on Lebanon ahead of a trip to France to discuss the issue with French leaders.

A military source said that "there are new proposals on the subject of Lebanon based on UN Resolution 425."

Meanwhile, Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav spoke to Iranians Monday evening through a call-in program on Israel Radio's Farsi-language program. The Iranian-born Katsav, speaking in Farsi, answered callers' questions.

One caller asked: "Is there a chance for relations between the two countries and on what terms?" Katsav replied: "We do not hate Iran and we love its people. The key is in Iran's hands."

SHAHAK

Continued from Page 1

The intelligence officer also said that Hizbullah has increased its activities against the South Lebanese Army and IDF against the background of the public argument in Israel over withdrawal.

Shahak said the argument "affects" soldiers but did not elaborate.

He said the main question regarding Lebanon is who will control the security zone if Israel withdraws and whether the Lebanese government is strong enough to disband Hizbullah.

The intelligence officer said the type of attacks in south Lebanon remain the same, led by artillery attacks, but Hizbullah last month sustained increased fatalities, with nine dead. He particularly praised

the Golani Brigade's Egoz unit, which is specially trained for south Lebanese conditions.

He also said Hizbullah apparently advised the Lebanese government not to reach security arrangements with Israel, claiming the Lebanese Army's function is to protect Lebanon, not Israel.

Regarding the Palestinians, Shahak said there is no evidence of who was intended to receive the weapons caught being smuggled in via the Dead Sea, but he said there are elements in the Palestinian Authority interested in the arms. Shahak said the Jordanians also are treating the incident seriously and trying to prevent a repeat.

He said the Palestinians are waiting for a US initiative because senior PA officials have lost faith in direct talks.

He said there is increased commerce and traffic of goods and people from the PA-controlled areas, which serves to relieve tension, but also could be used to help terrorists infiltrate.

The intelligence officer said the Palestinians apparently reject the prime minister's proposals for Camp David-style negotiations.

He said in principle Iraq is retaining its readiness to withstand a US attack and such an attack would be likely if it prevents UNSCOM from carrying out its work. Shahak also said he would prefer that a non-military body handle distribution of gas masks and protective kits.

VILLAGE

Continued from Page 1

"And apart from that, I don't have any family — I have no place to go, and I've got three children. We're not going to a hotel," she added defiantly.

Anger flowed through the crowd of squatters, as they watched firefighters pick through the rubble of their meager possessions looking for embers. Their fury was directed across the street, at Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

"He drives past practically everyday," said a woman who identified herself as Shula. "He ignores us. Does he ever think about how we live, how we die, if there are babies here among us? It never occurred to him, even once, to think: 'People are living here — how are they doing?' Or to send someone out to us? And we voted him in! He couldn't give a damn."

The fire started sometime before 2:30 a.m., when screams of "Fire! Get out!" woke some 60 occupants of the shack village.

The fire department was called from a cellular telephone, but one denizen said there was a 45-minute delay until a fire truck arrived.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Asher Naim, former ambassador to South Korea, will speak on: South Korea in 1998 and Similitudes with Israel.

Arad to intensify talks against Russian missile aide

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser Uzi Arad hopes to intensify the US-Israeli campaign to stop Russia's export of ballistic missile technology and expertise when he meets senior American officials in New York and Washington today.

Topping Arad's agenda will be a session with special presidential envoy Frank Wisner, who has just returned from Moscow where he conferred with Russian leaders on their country's involvement in Iran's arms buildup.

The meeting will be attended by Robert Galucci, formerly deputy head of the UN Special Commission which is charged with the destruction of Iraq's arsenal of unconventional weapons. Galucci has been named by President Bill Clinton to succeed Wisner.

Arad also will discuss Iran's efforts to amass weapons of mass destruction when he appears before the National Security Council. Immediately afterward, he is due to take off for Madrid to join Netanyahu at the start of his three-day trip that will include Bonn, Oslo, and London.

Arad said he had been updated by Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky in Moscow with regard to his talks about the missile issue there.

Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak denied a report in the American news media that Netanyahu will have a rendezvous with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright during his stay in London at the weekend.

In an apparent bid to quash speculation about Ambassador Eliahu Ben-Elissar's performance, especially his effectiveness in the US media, Netanyahu telephoned to express his confidence in him. He said he put no credence in local media reports of dissatisfaction with his work.

IDF, SLA gunners blast Hizbullah positions

By DAVID RUDGE

IDF gunners blasted Hizbullah positions north of the security zone yesterday afternoon in response to heavy mortar fire on outposts inside the zone.

A woman resident of Rehav village, in the zone's eastern sector, was wounded from shrapnel as a result of the Hizbullah mortar fire. There were no IDF or SLA casualties in the long-range attacks.

The wounded woman, who was identified as Leila Bero, was taken to a nearby IDF outpost for medical treatment after the exchanges died down.

Reports from Lebanon said that one of the outposts that came under fire yesterday was the Karkum position, where three soldiers were killed last week and two others badly wounded.

According to the reports, another IDF position and two SLA strongholds in the zone's western sector also came under mortar and missile fire yesterday, as did outposts in the eastern part of the zone.

The exchanges followed an attack by IAF warplanes on Hizbullah targets in the Jabal Soujoud region earlier in the morning. The IDF Spokesman said the pilots reported accurate hits on the targets and that all the planes returned safely to their bases.

Reports from Lebanon said two jets fired a total of eight missiles in four separate runs at Hizbullah targets in the area. The reports said it was the second air raid on the area in the past four days.

Meanwhile, Hizbullah continued to intensify its propaganda campaign by releasing what it described as the "real film" of the abortive attempt last Friday to overrun the SLA's Ghazlan outpost, in the zone's eastern sector.

According to reports from Lebanon, the film shows Hizbullah gunmen raising the organization's flag on an outer perimeter of the position. It was not clear, however, where and when the film actually was made.

Officials of the organization said it was decided to launch the attack after it was discovered that IDF

troops had replaced some of the SLA soldiers normally stationed there.

Hizbullah described the film as a media coup and said the attack on Ghazlan was in direct response to boasts last week by outgoing commander of the IDF's forces in Lebanon, Brig.-Gen. Eli Amichai, that new IDF tactics were throwing the organization off balance.

In fact, only a handful of Hizbullah gunmen approached the position and IDF troops killed two of them. Another gunman was killed later and several others were reported to have been wounded. Four IDF paratroopers were lightly wounded in repulsing the attack on Ghazlan.

Meanwhile, Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan met with the leaders of the Four Mothers organization for two hours yesterday. Eitan told the group, which advocates an IDF withdrawal from Lebanon, that "there isn't anyone to talk to in Lebanon" about negotiating a withdrawal.

Itim contributed to this report.

YAKAR Center for Social Concern
Thursday, March 5, at 7.30 p.m.

HAS THE MEDIA DISGRACED ITSELF OVER PRESIDENT CLINTON, PRINCESS DIANA, THE NETANYAHUS?

Panel: Amotz Asa-El (Jerusalem Post), Ari Goldman (Prof. Journalism, Columbia U.), Charles Semott (Boston Globe), Christopher Morris (Skytv, London)

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Knesset readies for election

By LIAT COLLINS

The Knesset is prepared for almost any scenario at today's presidential election, including the unlikely possibility of the ballot box or keys being stolen, despite the presence of Knesset guards and ushers, Speaker Dan Tichon said yesterday. Although there are only 120 MKs, 600 ballots each have been prepared for Ezer Weizman and Shaul Amur, along with 600 blank slips.

This number is to cover the slim possibility of there being four rounds of voting, since a candidate needs 61 votes to win.

The election is scheduled to start at 11 a.m. with a short announcement by Tichon.

In a double first, the election will be carried

live by a video program on the Internet (www.knesset.gov.il). Apart from being the first such coverage of a presidential election, the Internet link will mark the first, still experimental, live coverage from the Knesset plenum. Apparently there is still only limited access to the video program because of server constraints, but the site includes a section relating to the presidential election, the law, the history, and previous votes.

At 10:45 a.m., the polling committee will start checking the area to ensure the wooden divisions around the polling booth in the plenum and the counting area are in place.

The polling committee is Likud whip Meir Sheerit, Labor whip Eli Goldschmidt, Meretz whip Haim Oron, and Shas MK Nissim Dahan.

The committee members will sign the special envelopes at the start of the vote and then Knesset clerk Arye Hahn will call out the names of each MK alphabetically. MK Shimon Peres has asked to be allowed first vote because he has a speaking engagement at 11:15.

The vote is expected to last about an hour.

An envelope in which there is more than one ballot slip or in which the slip is folded or marked in any way will be considered invalid. This year the slips were printed on recycled, thicker paper than in previous years to make it less likely that two sheets will accidentally be stuck together. In the last presidential election, four envelopes contained more than one slip.

Weizman will apparently sit out the vote at

Beit Hanasi, while Amur will wait in his Knesset office.

Once the result is announced in the plenum, a delegation led by Tichon and the deputy speakers will leave to inform the winning candidate.

The presidential inauguration is scheduled for May 18.

If Amur wins, however, he will immediately have to resign as an MK, which apparently entitles him to four months "adjustment pay" of more than NIS 20,000 per month. He would be replaced by Ariel Mayor Ron Nahman.

The ballot slips will be stored in the safe in the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee until the inauguration after which they will be destroyed.

Katzir, Navon support Weizman

By JUDY SIEGEL

The two living former presidents both support the election of Ezer Weizman for a second term. Prof. Ephraim Katzir, the fourth president, and Yitzhak Navon, the fifth, also oppose proposals for a popularly elected chief of state and for major changes in the ceremonial office.

"Occasionally, he has said things he shouldn't, but on the whole, he meets the criteria for chief of state: a person who has made major contributions to the country, is accepted by the Jewish people, and acceptable to the citizens of Israel," said Katzir, a renowned biophysicist at the Weizmann Institute.

"Shaul Amur is a nice man," said Navon, "but in deciding who will be president, one compares his biography to that of Ezer Weizman, which goes back to World War II when he was a pilot fighting the Nazis and on to his service in the air force, as defense minister, and in helping to formulate the Camp David agreement."

"The president has made some errors, but he is spontaneous and he cares. Together with Reuma, he has carried out the functions of the presidency with much feeling. Since Camp David, he has been a symbol of peace, and replacing him would give a signal of a change of direction against peace."

Navon, 76, rejected ideas of

should be allowed, under unusual circumstances, to dissolve the Knesset and prevent certain laws from being implemented.

"But that is ridiculous. The Knesset could then pass another law to supersede that. If a person



Yitzhak Navon (David Rubinger)

wants to be president, he or she should know that the job doesn't carry much formal authority, but does have influence on the people. The president can help unify the people in a non-political way and give them a sense of belonging."

Navon also said it is nonsense to have presidential candidates elected by the public. "Can you imagine them holding rallies, producing stickers, and making promises? What will they promise? It would just cost a lot of money. Until now, the Knesset has elected the president, and not done too bad a job."

He bemoaned the introduction of the ethnic issue into the presidential campaign.

Katzir, 81, said that years ago, he thought it might be a good idea to give the president the power to dissolve the Knesset and call new elections in exceptional cases. "But Supreme Court justices said this was legally impossible, since the president is himself elected by the Knesset. I realized they were right. And popular election of the president is impossible, especially now that the prime minister is directly elected."

Katzir added that "many people think that the president's job is just going from reception to reception and party to party, with some condolence visits from time to time. But the president does much more than that. He remains a symbol of the nation, like the queen of England, and tries to unify them. The law states that he, and not the prime minister, officially represents the state."



Ephraim Katzir

changing the presidency. "Don't give the president additional responsibilities, for he is a symbol and makes of the office what he wishes from his existing authority. I remember various suggestions for increasing the president's powers: Menachem Begin was said to have proposed that the president appoint the chief of general staff, while others said he

The fighting president

By BATSEVA TSUR

President Ezer Weizman, 73, was born in Tel Aviv to a prominent family. His uncle, Chaim Weizmann, was Israel's first president.

Weizman has spent most of his adult years in uniform, joining the RAF in 1942 and serving as a fighter pilot in the Middle and Far East. He is a graduate of the RAF Staff College.

Weizman was among the founders of the Israel Air Force and commanded it from 1958 until 1966. Following that, he was deputy chief of staff of the IDF.

Retiring in 1969, he entered politics and was appointed minister of transport in a Labor-led government. Menachem Begin made him his defense minister in 1977. Weizman participated in the Camp David Accord negotiations, forming close contacts with the Egyptians, which were utilized during his term as president to move forward the stalled peace process.

He resigned from the Knesset in 1992 and was elected president five years ago. Weizman is married to Reuma and they



Chaim Weizman (David Rubinger)

have a daughter and four grandchildren. Their son, Shaul, was seriously wounded during the Yom Kippur War and died in a road accident in 1991.

The challenger

By BATSEVA TSUR

Presidential hopeful MK Shaul Amur, 57, was born in Bouzid, Morocco. His father, the community's rabbi, died when he was three. Shaul and his younger brother made aliya in the late 1950s and studied in Youth Aliya schools.

In 1960, while Amur was serving in the army, his mother moved to Israel, but died later in a transit camp near Nahariya.

After being demobilized, Amur moved to Acre, where he met his wife, Suzanne, a nurse who had also been born in Morocco. He began his political career in the Labor Party and served as deputy mayor of Karmiel, where the couple had moved. During this time, he studied social work at Haifa University.

When the family moved to Migdal Ha'emek in the '70s, Amur ran for head of the local council on an independent ticket and beat the Labor candidate. During his term of office the township grew into a city with a high-tech park, and he has remained its popular mayor.

Amur was number 32 on the Likud list



Shaul Amur (Isaac Harari)

for the last elections. He heads the social affairs caucus in the Knesset.

The Amurs have three children - daughters 24 and 21 and a 14-year-old son.

Likud presidential candidate faces 20-year jinx

By DAN ZENBERG

Looking back on previous presidential elections, a few basic facts emerge. Perhaps the most important is that, even though the Likud has been in power for most of the past 20 years, it has never been able to elect its own president.

Two Labor representatives - Yitzhak Navon and Chaim Herzog - were elected president, while a Likud-led coalition enjoyed a solid parliamentary majority.

The first presidential elections were relatively tame affairs. The presidents were all popular figures who were prominent in the battle for independence, in an era where the overwhelming majority of the population supported socialist parties. Nevertheless, politics were a prominent feature of the elections as early as 1952, when the Mapai representative, Izhak Ben-Zvi, faced three opponents.

Since the 1963-73 term of Zalman Shazar, there has never been an obvious presidential choice. In 1973, the Labor Party drafted Weizmann Institute scientist Ephraim Katzir for the job, even though Katzir had no political ambitions and was not well known. Ever since then, the position has been held by politicians - Yitzhak Navon, Chaim Herzog, and Ezer Weizman - who sought the job and campaigned hard for it.

The current race marks the first time an incumbent president has ever had to fight for a second term. Compared to today's dog-fight between Weizman and coalition candidate MK Shaul Amur (Likud), some of the earlier elections were a cakewalk.

"The Knesset had elected the new president, to be sure," wrote *Jerusalem Post* parliamentary correspondent Lea Ben-Dor on May 24, 1963, a few days after Shazar was elected Israel's third president. "But so much of a foregone conclusion was this, and so precisely was the result known beforehand, that two votes cast in an unexpected fashion had the whole place simmering with speculation and rumor. It was not significant and in no way affected the conclusion that Mr. Shazar

received 67 votes in place of the expected 69, and Mr. Bernstein, the Liberal candidate, 33."

Katzir followed Shazar and his election battle had nothing to do with the opposition. His nomination by the party's Old Guard, including Mapai stalwarts Pinchas Sapir and Moshe Baran, was challenged by a young and attractive MK from the former Rafi Party - Yitzhak Navon. In a battle in the party's central committee, Katzir - who was in the US attending a scientific conference, defeated Navon by 279 to 221 votes.

The choice was political, to be sure, but in this case it was internal Labor Party politics.

Unexpectedly, Navon had his day in 1978, after the political upheaval which brought the Likud to power. Prime Minister Menachem Begin chose nuclear physicist Prof. Yitzhak Chavet as his candidate for the presidency. From a political point of view, it was a strange decision, since the man was virtually unknown and the coalition was unenthusiastic about the choice. When the Liberals - Herut's main partner in the Likud - nominated Elimelech Rimalt for the post, Labor pounced on the opportunity in order to drive a wedge between the coalition partners. When Chavet finally withdrew, the popular Navon challenged Rimalt and won.

Perhaps the most surprising election victory was that of Chaim Herzog. He was elected president in 1983, two years after the Likud won a stunning comeback election victory fought primarily on the ethnic question, in which hatred for Labor was palpable on the street. When veteran NRP politician Josef Burg declined Begin's nomination, the prime minister opted for another religious Zionist figure - Supreme Court Justice Menachem Elon. With the Likud-led coalition enjoying a 64-56 majority, Elon seemed a shoo-in. But in the cliff-hanger vote, Herzog won, 61-57.

In a report the following day entitled "No lack of rumors about who defected," *Post* parliamentary correspondent Asher Wallfish speculated about who may have given Herzog his victory.

"The pundits all claimed that the three-person Tehiya faction contained no defectors," wrote Wallfish in a story that might be similar in spirit to reports that may appear in tomorrow's papers. "They suggested that defectors had surfaced in the Likud, the NRP, Agudat Yisrael, and Tami. Several factors were singled out as having produced the voting figures. Most important of all were the personal grudges or calculations inside the coalition faction."

There were no surprises in 1993, however, when President Weizman defeated Likud candidate Dov Shilansky by a vote of 66 to 53, with one abstention. If there was a surprise, it was only the fact that it took two attempts to get the balloting right. In the first vote, the 120 MKs in the plenum managed to cast 124 ballots.

In the ensuing celebration, Weizman made a promise he may regret not having followed in subsequent years. "This is the most complicated and difficult job I have ever assumed," he said. "I will not take a step without consulting the cabinet, the prime minister, and the foreign minister." It is because he did not follow this policy that his second term is at all in question.

Presidents of Israel

Chaim Weizmann	1949-1952
Izhak Ben-Zvi	1952-1963
Zalman Shazar	1963-1973
Ephraim Katzir	1973-1978
Yitzhak Navon	1978-1983
Chaim Herzog	1983-1993
Ezer Weizman	1993-

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Nat Lewin - Famous U.S. Civil Rights Attorney
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Arutz 7 - English program, 97.3 FM radio*

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Application forms can be obtained from:
The Philatelic Service, 12 Sd. Yerushalayim,
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(include name and address).

Each contestant may submit more than one design.
Designs not complying with the competition
rules will be disqualified.

Submissions should be placed in the tender box at The Philatelic Service.
The last date for submitting designs is March 26, 1998, at 3 p.m.

According to the provisions of the Israel Graphic Designers Association, ten percent of the prize money will be transferred to the Association.
Submissions will be returned after the winner has been chosen by the Panel of Judges.

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Moslems continue to occupy Jaffa 'mosque'

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Despite threats from the Ministry for Religious Affairs and an expulsion order from the police, a group of Moslems yesterday continued to occupy part of the House of Simon the Tanner in Old Jaffa, a symbol of the increasingly vocal demands by Moslems for the return of the property of the Wakf, the Moslem religious trust.

"We won't allow any infringement of the Moslem Wakf," reads a hand-written sign in Arabic and Hebrew over the door to the complex, which Christians believe to be a site mentioned in the New Testament, but which activists in the Islamic Movement say is an ancient mosque.

The sign provides a stark contrast to the cafes and restaurants, the galleries and boutiques that occupy most of this historic section. Where there is a house of worship, such as St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, a sign with a figure in Napoleonic dress, points to the "historic building."

Ahmed Abu Ajwes, in a long brown robe and white skullcap, was performing his ablutions prior to the noonday prayer, using water from a plastic jerrycan outside a window whose iron bars had been cut through. A concrete block provided access to a carpeted room with an

ornate *mihrab*, a prayer niche indicating the direction of Mecca, in one wall. A large doorway in another wall had been boarded up. However, Abu Ajwes insisted that the entire complex, all 237 sq.m., is a mosque.

"It is a mosque. There is no doubt about it. There is a minaret and a *mihrab*. That proves it is a mosque," he said.

Abu Ajwes also pointed to an Arabic inscription over the main door, which he said dated from 1143 of the Hejira, equivalent to 1730, in which the writer asks God to forgive his sins and grant him a place in paradise in return for his having built the mosque. The name of the mosque, Abu Ajwes said, was that of Mohammed Abu Tabya.

The only indication that this was the House of Simon the Tanner derives from a New Testament passage that it was near the sea, he said, but the Moslems have documents, as well as the *mihrab* and minaret, to prove it is a mosque, he said.

"They should take this honored man, Mr. Zacharian, out of this mosque," he said, referring to the caretaker whose family, the ministry insists, has cared for the property since it was installed by the Turkish authorities in 1860.

Christopher Zacharian opened the heavy door carefully and peered out as his wife stood

behind him.

"I can't say anything. It is all being dealt with by the police. When tourists come I tell them they can't come in," he said.

Abu Ajwes said the site is one of 36 mosques which existed in Jaffa before 1948. Now, he said, there are nine, of which six function as mosques, with the remainder under the control of the Moslem advisory board, a body appointed by the government to administer the affairs of the Moslem Wakf, which had been declared abandoned property after the War of Independence. Abu Ajwes characterized this body as a puppet group. The Wakf, he said, owns 60 percent of the property in this country.

Uri Mor, director of the department for Christian communities in the Religious Affairs Ministry, said yesterday that the expulsion order against the Moslem group would be carried out, but he could not say when.

He said that the occupation of the site in Jaffa is only one of a series of incidents. Moslems had tried to regain mosques in the Malha and Ein Karem sections of Jerusalem and they had claimed a plot of land belonging to the Nazareth Municipality on which a plaza for the year 2000 is to be built, Mor said. If the government capitulates in Jaffa, it would only encourage additional claims, he said.



Peter Hernandez, of Hollywood, Florida, points out that the US flag is not among the flags the conference's organizers put on display. (Isaac Harari)

Jerusalem hosts international conference on 'sister cities'

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

How cities solve their problems was one of the topics in the halls of the Jerusalem Convention Center yesterday for the opening of the International Conference - Sister Cities and Municipal Organizations.



Nathalie Heneman of Paris (Isaac Harari)

Delegates from around the world and from 150 Israeli localities shared ideas on how different places can deal with their municipal structures, infrastructure, economic development, education, and new technology that helps make it easier to run a city.

"There are many things that you don't even dream that you can learn from other places, like how technicians in other cities solve their problems," said Moshe

Spector, mayor of Maccabim-Reut. "We are going to exchange views from different cities to learn one from the other. There are many new things to learn."

One unexpected controversy developed when a delegate from Hollywood, Florida, Peter Hernandez, tried to find the US flag among the dozens that were standing on the stage.

"I'm greatly disappointed that the American flag is not up there," Hernandez said. "Why not? We're one of the biggest allies of Israel, how come our flag is not up there?"

Organizers at the conference said they had no explanation for its absence, insisting that it had been seen yesterday when the stage was arranged.

Nathalie Heneman, from Paris, said she was representing the French-Israeli Association. She hopes to develop more twinnings of French and Israeli cities. There currently are 53 French-Israeli pairs of twinned cities.

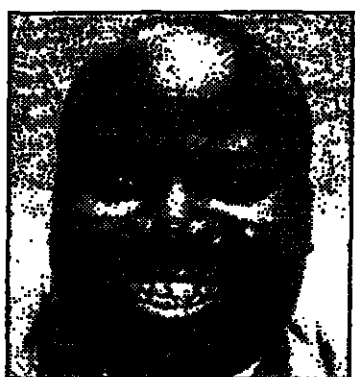
Heneman said this is her first visit to Israel and that she is learning how different it is from what she gets from the news media.

"From just watching the media you'd think it was a war zone. It's pleasant, not like the image we have," she said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressed the conference, and told how projects like the Cross-Israel Highway and a fast railway between Tel Aviv and Beersheba, will "reduce the dis-

tance between the national level and local level."

He said these developments will fundamentally change local municipalities, make them more mobile, increase the value of land, and create social mobility and economic development that is unseen. They will eliminate the word periphery.



Entebbe Mayor Stephen Kabuye (Joe Malcolin)

and bring the country closer so that everyone can take part in this prosperity, he said.

At the opening ceremony, Netanyahu met Entebbe Mayor Stephen Kabuye, who asked him for Israel's help in setting up a memorial at the city's former airport to the prime minister's brother, Yoni Netanyahu, who was killed in an IDF operation to rescue hostages at Entebbe airport in 1976.

Tichon gets another death threat

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon yesterday received a second death threat in the mail. The envelope was postmarked Haifa.

The threat was in the form of an undated poster announcement of his death, including details of the funeral arrangements.

In the preamble, the typed threat read: "I hope you have prepared a burial plot and written your will. The police won't be able to help you much. You have been incidentally chosen for execution from a long list. The mercenaries have already been paid." And in large letters, "Death to Dan Tichon." Tichon received the letter on his return from a visit abroad and would not say whether extra security precautions are being taken. The police are investigating.

Eitan fined for truancy

Agriculture and Environment Minister Raphael Eitan will have a day's wages deducted from his salary for exceeding the permissible limit on absence from the Knesset without an acceptable excuse. The Knesset Ethics Committee, chaired by Yehuda

Lankri (Geshet), determined that in last summer's sitting, Eitan was present at 15 sessions and absent from 16 and did not present the committee with an explanation. This was the second time he had exceeded the limit.

MKs back cut in foreign workers

The Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee, chaired by Maxim Levy (Geshet), said yesterday it agrees with the stand of Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai and the Employment Security that the number of foreign workers should be reduced.

The committee members called on the construction industry to return to employing Palestinian workers instead, particularly as the number of permits given them to work in Israel has been increased.

Shmuel Arad, director of the Contractors Association, said Israelis do not want to work in building or similar industries. His statement was shouted down by

MKs including Tamar Gozansky (Hadash), who demanded statistics instead of rhetoric.

Arad said the Palestinian workers are not an alternative to foreign workers because of intentional acts of sabotage on building sites, crime, and the terror threat. He said reducing the number of foreign workers would worsen the crisis in the industry and result in more dismissals. The MKs said raising wages and improving social conditions would encourage more Israelis to work in the field.

The Subcommittee on Foreign Workers also discussed the deportation of workers yesterday. The committee decided to initiate legislation which would oblige the police to bring foreign workers before a judge immediately after their arrest.

Coping with addiction

During a discussion on the problems of the families of drug addicts in the Knesset Anti-Drug Abuse Committee yesterday, MKs

heard the stories of the daily struggle to cope. The wife of a former convict said her husband had been released from prison eight months ago, clean of drugs, but is unable to find work. She said she fears the family will break up and she will be thrown into the street with her two children.

Committee chairman Eli Ben-Menachem (Labor) said the treatment of the drug-abuser prisoner should begin earlier in prison and should include help, including financial help, for the family.

He also said he is against a general amnesty for the jubilee year. "Yes to amnesty for [former] drug addicts; no to amnesty for drug dealers," he said.

Less Ethiopian dropouts

The Knesset Education Committee, chaired by MK Emanuel Zissmann (The Third Way), yesterday heard that the dropout rate of Ethiopian immigrant students in schools is falling and a larger number are going on to military or civil national service. However, there remain a number of problems such as school transport.

Where to eat in Israel

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KOHINOOR Kosher Indian Restaurant - Kashrut supervision by Rabbi Yosef Fink. Buffet lunch NIS 47 (children NIS 24) Open 12-4 p.m.; 6 p.m.-midnight. Holiday Inn Hotel, The Crown Plaza. Tel. 02-658 8867, Tel/Fax: 02-653 6667.

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THE 7TH PLACE - Popular Jerusalem dining spot, authentic Southern Indian and dairy cuisine. Spacious, bright and friendly. Live show every night. Kosher. 37 Hillel St. (Beit Agnon - the journalists center). Tel. 02-625 4495.

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RUSSIAN PRESS REVIEW

By YOSEF BEGUN

Saddam's threat: An epilogue

Referring to the Iraq crisis, Yossi Shalom Groman asks: "Why are so many observers trying to convince the public that Israel is the main victim of the agreement between [UN Secretary-General Kofi] Annan and Iraq?" He stresses that many Israelis felt great relief after the Scud threat was over, thanks to this long-awaited settlement. "Just let the people relax. Why should the Hebrew mass media frighten Israelis once more?"

Groman says that "the Left is frustrated and disappointed after the tension is over." Trying to find the real reason for this, he postulates, "Perhaps the Left and the press that supports it hoped that an armed settlement of the Iraqi crisis would be followed by decisive steps by the US and the UN toward Israel. The latter would be forced to fulfill the UN resolutions, which are suicide for the Jewish state."

In *Vremya*, Gary Reznikovsky says of the panic: "Israeli society is vulnerable..." He praised Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for his delay in political troubleshooting. "Israeli society is as ready for sudden changes as a traumatized alpine skier is ready for the slalom. If [Labor Party leader Ehud] Barak is elected, he will have to act very carefully. Israel needs a cast to let its bones heal."

Human rights - and wrongs

The trial and treatment of Zvi Ben-Ari (Gregory Lerner) by the justice system has caused new immigrants from the former USSR to express their doubt as to the maintenance of human rights in this country, says Alex Pritutzky in *Vesti*. At the beginning of March, several organizations will gather at a national conference on human rights in Ashkelon, where the Ben-Ari case will be on the agenda. On March

16 they plan to stage demonstrations in Jerusalem. "These civil actions are aimed at defending the law and stopping arbitrary rule"

Demographics war

Gennady Schpack in *Secret* reports on the recent demographic investigations at the Hebrew University. The scientists state that the number of Jews in the world will never reach its pre-war 17 million. For two decades it has been stabilized at 13 million. The number of Jews in Israel is growing, while that in the Diaspora is decreasing, due to assimilation and low birth rate. Commenting on this data, Schpack recalls Yasser Arafat's words: "The Arab woman's womb is our chief weapon," and warns: "High fertility in Arab families will one day help Palestinians outnumber Jews in their homeland." He refers to the fact that the Jewish population cannot renew its 1,939 number as "a demographic victory for the Nazis."

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Knesset: Cell-phone firms should fund research on dangers

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Knesset Science and Technology Committee will push for legislation requiring cellular phone companies to set aside a certain percentage of their profits for independent research on the possible health dangers of the phones.

The idea of establishing an Israeli research center, funded by the companies, to investigate alleged cancer risks from continual use of cellular phones, was first raised last May by *The Jerusalem Post* after an Australian medical study found twice as many cases of lymphoma in mice exposed to cell phone radiation as in a control group. The Health and Communications ministries then expressed support for the idea, but Pelephone and Cellcom backed away from it, fearing that compa-

ny support for research would be an admission that there is a danger and frighten away customers.

Dr. Elihu Richter, head of the occupational and environmental medicine unit at the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Public Health and Community Medicine, started committee chairman MK Dalia Itzik and the handful of members who attended the session when he said "there is no doubt that cellular phones pose a cancer risk. The question is how great the risk is. There are weak and strong carcinogens."

Richter, who declared that he doesn't use or want a cellular phone, added that "excess cases of cancer have been noted among people who maintain broadcasting antennae" for cellular phones and other major electromagnetic equipment.

Prof. John Goldsmith, a senior radiation epidemiologist at the Ben-Gurion University medical school who has studied the subject, warned of the health risks, adding that the five years' use in Israel and somewhat longer abroad is not enough to assess the dangers. He urged the establishment of a cellular phone safety council to conduct laboratory and epidemiological studies and ensure professional monitoring and measurement.

Cellcom and Pelephone representatives reiterated that their equipment meets "strict international standards," but conceded that they could not prove claims of health dangers are nonsense. Government officials said there is no Israeli standard, and that local use of cell phones — by children and with many more minutes of

use daily than in most countries — is different than abroad.

Prof. Ariel Cohen, of the Hebrew University's department of atmospheric sciences, noted foreign research linking cell phone use and cancers, adding that many users suffer from headaches and heat sensations when they use them for more than a few minutes.

Itzik was astounded when Dr. Ehud Ne'eman, the Environment Ministry official responsible for supervision of radiation, admitted that the cellular phone companies directly chose and paid outside companies to investigate public complaints about cell phone antennae radiation. This, she asserted, constituted a conflict of interest. Ne'eman said the companies were "highly professional," but agreed to raise the issue in the ministry. One official proposed that the cell

phone companies pay a fee to the Environment Ministry, which would directly hire experts to conduct measurements and thus eliminate the possibility of the cell phone companies influencing results.

Israel Consumer Council director-general Ariella Ravdel said she had been lulled into complacency by Communications Ministry officials, who said there was "nothing to worry about. But after attending this session, I'm really worried." She demanded that a national plan for cell phone transmission antennae be completed and publicized as soon as possible, a recommendation that the committee adopted. The committee also called on phone manufacturers to include in their instruction booklets data on the amount of electromagnetic radiation they issue and ways of reducing users' exposure to it.

NEWS

in brief

Workers' c'tees to run in Histadrut elections

Workers' committees from several industries are forming a party called Oz ("the right to work") to run in the Histadrut elections in June, Israel Aircraft Industries union head Haim Katz announced yesterday. It will be apolitical and include workers' committees from the transport and communications industries and the Israel Electric Corporation, he said at a press conference in Tel Aviv. Katz said the party has not decided whether to run for the Knesset as well and denied that Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz is behind it. He did not announce who will be heading the new list. *Itim*

Prize for Lifetime Achievement announced

This year's three winners of the Israel Prize for Lifetime Achievement, announced yesterday by the Education Ministry, are: former MK Sarah Stern-Katan, for promoting Jewish history and heritage through public activity in the social and educational fields; to former MK Shlomo Hillel for his efforts to save the Jewish communities of Iraq and Iran and his manifold contributions to national political and social life; and to Haim Yisraeli, for his contribution as the "conscience of Israeli security" while serving as aide to the country's defense ministers over the past 50 years. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Conservatives petition court over funding

The Conservative movement yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice, claiming that the Religious Affairs Ministry has reverted to allocating funds to special institutions, close to the religious parties.

The petition noted that following an earlier petition calling for allocations according to objective criteria, the ministry had provided subsidies for its rabbinical school in 1995 and 1996. In 1997 this stopped, the petition said, and more recently, the ministry has used the use of giving subsidies to only those bodies with more than 10,000 students. *Haim Shapiro*

Yahalom: Increase flights to Akaba

In his first official act since taking office, Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom has proposed increasing the number of Israeli flights to the proposed Israeli-Jordanian airport at Akaba, a proposal adopted by the government. According to the agreement, the airport, to be known as the Shalom-Salam Airport, is to use the existing airfield, with an Israeli terminal inside Israel in addition to the present Jordanian terminal. Akaba and Eilat are to have separate destination codes. There are presently three Israeli flights a week by Arkia and El Al to the Akaba airfield. *Haim Shapiro*

Sick children to learn via computer

Schoolchildren who are ill for more than three weeks at home or in the hospital will soon be able to actively participate in their classes using computers, integrated services digital network lines, cameras, and a videotape. The program will be operated by the voluntary organization Tlalim (which supplies sick children with computers and software), with help from the Education Ministry and the Israel Cancer Association and in cooperation with the European Community. *Judy Siegel*

Maryland rejects compromise on murder suspect's extradition

By News agencies

Montgomery County, Maryland's state attorney has shot down the proposal to send the US teenager currently jailed here back to Maryland to stand trial for murder, on the condition that he serve any sentence in the relative safety of an Israeli prison.

State Attorney Robert L. Dean called the deal — which was accepted by the teen's lawyer David Liba'i — "not feasible." In a brief news conference in Rockville, Maryland, late Monday, Dean characterized what had appeared to be an emerging agreement as "something we have not done and, quite frankly, I do not expect [we] will do."

His announcement ended a day of seeming long-distance plea bargaining between the youth's attorneys and Dean, who traveled to Israel last week in hopes of speeding along the youth's extradition.

The youth has been fighting extradition by claiming he is an Israeli citizen. Testimony in Jerusalem District Court is scheduled to conclude tomorrow, with closing arguments early next week.

The 17-year-old is accused of the murder and dismemberment of Alfredo Enrique Tello Jr., 19, whose charred remains were found in a garage in September. The youth left the US for Israel soon after becoming a suspect.

Liba'i, said Monday that his client had accepted a Jerusalem District Court proposal that he go to the US voluntarily to stand trial if he can serve any sentence in Israel.

However, Dean rejected the deal, citing complications posed by international law and the fact that it would leave him with no authority over the terms of the youth's incarceration.

Dean said that he would not be willing to allow the youth to serve his sentence in Israel without knowing how long he would be imprisoned and whether he would be eligible for parole.

"There is no assurance... that [the youth], when sentenced [in the United States and imprisoned in Israel], would serve a sentence commensurate with the sentence imposed," Dean said. "Without those assurances, I do not think the judge's proposal is one we are prepared to accept."

John McCarthy, Montgomery County's deputy state attorney, said it would take weeks for the US State and Justice departments to study the thorny legal issues.

"The interest that we have at this time is to see the extradition hearing to its conclusion," McCarthy said.



Members of Green Action (from right) Nurit Zilbersheid, Shai Elad, Rebecca Schisha, Orly Frid and Sibylla Perelman demonstrate in Jerusalem against the plans to construct a new marina and commercial and residential area on the coastline of Haifa. (Bryan McBurney)

Environmentalists protest Haifa marina project

By LIAT COLLINS and NINA GILBERT

Environmentalists, including members of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel and Green Action, as well as Haifa residents protested outside the National Planning and Construction Committee offices at the Interior Ministry in Jerusalem during discussions yesterday on the Haifa marina project.

The council did not reach a final decision on the issue, although the discussions lasted several hours.

Dressed as mermaids, the demonstrators carried placards with slogans such as "Save Haifa's beaches."

SPNI spokeswoman Orli Nevo said a series of problems and deficiencies were discovered recently in the process of approving the project. Following pressure from the SPNI and the Israel Union for Environmental Defense (Adam, Teva V'din), the plans were sent back to the Coastal Planning Committee.

Avi Goldenberg, general manager of the Haifa Economic Corporation, which is responsible for the project, said that two months ago the Coastal Planning Committee approved the project and its environmental impact study.

"It was the largest such study ever conducted in the history of the state," he said.

The coastal committee decided, however, that the objections of the environmentalists should be heard again by the national committee.

Apart from what it fears will be major and irreversible environmental damage resulting from the project, the SPNI is protesting the way the procedure was approved. Among other things, the environmentalists note that the project was approved as a small adjustment to the beach, rather than as a major change to the coast.

The environmentalists' claims are totally irresponsible after 12 years of discussions on the project. But it's true we did not check the impact of the project on other beaches, such as in

Alexandria and Tripoli," Goldenberg said.

Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna, who appeared before the committee, emphasized the importance of the project to Haifa's tourism industry.

Some 450,000 sq.m. of land is to be reclaimed in the project, and profits from the land's sale are to go to the Israel Lands Administration.

The project is to have some 1,500 hotel rooms, residential areas, promenades, a beach, a marina, a shopping mall and restaurants. The project is one of the key parts of a plan to put Haifa on the tourist map. At present, there are only 900 hotel rooms in Haifa.

2 remanded on sex charges

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

A man suspected of raping a mentally retarded 19-year-old woman and another man suspected of committing sodomy with a minor were remanded for six days each by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Binyamin Biton, 30, of Kiryat Shalom, was arrested on suspicion that he raped a young woman who disappeared from her home two years ago. Police suspect Biton, who allegedly knew the woman before the incident, crept behind her, grabbed her, and pushed her into the bushes where he raped her.

Police said they have not been able to take evidence from the victim in an orderly manner because of her retardation. They said they

have witnesses, that saw the woman a short time after the incident and can describe the serious condition she was in.

Biton's lawyer argued that the girl had initiated relations and knew what she was doing. The suspect has a record of theft and drug offenses. Judge Moshe Peled banned publication of the rape victim's name.

In another case, a man was arrested on suspicion that he sodomized a minor he met in an arcade in Tel Aviv. Police claim Abed Suleiman, 30, of Kafr Bara, forced the boy into his car and drove him to Tel Aviv's old port where he committed the deed.

Police said that while the man has denied the accusation, the evidence they took from him indicates that he was in contact with the child.

Rabbinical judges support changes to Law of Return

By HAIM SHAPIRO

The country's rabbinical court judges yesterday indicated their support for amending the Law of Return in order to reduce the number of non-Jews who become Israeli.

The Law of Return allows for any Jew or the child or grandchild of a Jew, as well as his immediate family, to automatically receive citizenship. Experts have estimated that about 200,000 of the immigrants from the former Soviet Union are not Jewish according to Halacha. At the close of a four-day conference yesterday, the rabbinical court judges said that they would encourage those who called

for a change in the Law of Return in a way that would lessen the immigration of non-Jews to Israel.

"We call upon all bodies dealing with immigration and in particular the Jewish Agency to stop this wave," the judges said in a statement. They also called for the formation of a special body whose sole function would be to examine the Jewishness of immigrants.

The body would function as part of the rabbinical courts. In an apparent reference to the conversion bill, the judges said that it was unthinkable that clarifications of Jewishness and conversion to Judaism be undertaken by any body in Israel other than the rabbinical courts.

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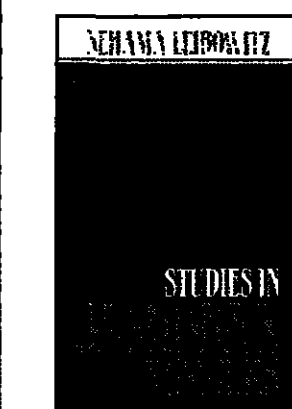
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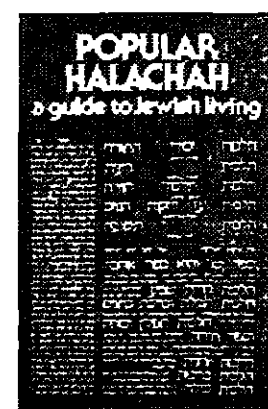
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UN: North Korean food crisis is 'critical'

By JUDE WEBBER

ROME (Reuters) - The North Korean government has this week issued a statement saying that it might run out of grain supplies within two weeks, according to the UN's food agency.

"The fact that the government issued a warning confirms our assessment that the food situation in the country is critical," Rolf Huss, program coordinator at the World Food Program, said in a statement from the agency's Rome headquarters.

The organization called on the international community to respond "quickly and generously" to Pyongyang's new food appeal in order to help starving North Koreans.

The official Korean Central News Agency earlier quoted a spokesman for North Korea's

Flood Damage Rehabilitation Committee as saying that, even with a reduction in rations to 100 grams per person per day, stocks would run out by mid-May.

That warning was North Korea's grimmest yet in a disaster prompted by years of devastating floods, droughts, typhoons and tidal waves that have ruined crops and forced the secretive Stalinist state to make rare appeals for international help.

Huss said the government warning appeared to focus on its own national food stocks rather than on aid provided by WFP and other agencies. But he urged prompt action.

"Our monitors in the country are assessing the situation on a daily basis. Still, based on our findings last fall, we have to act now before the widespread hunger worsens and the country faces a humanitarian catastrophe," he said.

WFP and its sister agency, the Food and Agriculture Organization, said after a joint mission to North Korea late last year that they expected food stocks to run out by April or May. Huss said this was "worse than last year when they ran out in June."

WFP is currently supplying 98,000 tons of grain to 4.7 million of North Korea's most vulnerable people, mostly children, to last them through March.

In January WFP launched a new appeal for 658,000 tons of food to help 7.47 million North Koreans - about a third of the population. Washington has pledged 200,000 tons of commodities.

That appeal, worth \$378 million, was the largest UN agencies had made for North Korea. Then, last month, the United Nations said food aid alone would not be

enough and raised the appeal to \$415.6m. to include projects to improve water supply, sanitation and food production.

"WFP appeals to the international community to contribute quickly and generously," Huss said. "There is no doubt that the harsh winter and shortage of food has left the population particularly vulnerable."

The new aid would be aimed at five million children plus handicapped people, hospital patients, pregnant and nursing mothers and workers in agricultural reconstruction activities.

The aid will consist of corn-soya blend, sugar, cereals, pulses, vegetable oil and fortified high-energy biscuits.

The spokesman for North Korea's Flood Damage Rehabilitation Committee, in a KCNA report monitored in Tokyo,

said that at the start of the year, North Korea's total stock of grain was 167,000 tons for its 22 million people.

"With this stock, 300 grams were distributed to each person on a daily average in January and 200 grams in February. Even if 100 grams are distributed in March, the stock will run out in mid-March," he said.

The dire warning followed predictions of tragedy from aid workers in the region. However, South Korea said it was skeptical its neighbor would run out of food stocks this month.

"I don't believe we should attach too much meaning to the latest statement," said an official at Seoul's National Unification Ministry, who declined to be identified.

Russia, however, said it was actively studying ways of

extending help to North Korea. FAO said last month that maize production in North Korea was expected to hit its lowest level on record in 1997 - around 1.14 million tons. It said rice production would also turn out to have been badly hit.

Meanwhile, the Swiss Foreign Ministry said on Monday Geneva will host a preliminary meeting on March 14 ahead of a new round of Korean peace talks this month.

The meeting will finalize an agenda for the four-way talks between South and North Korea and their respective Korean War allies, the United States and China, in Geneva on March 16.

Historic four-way negotiations - the first since the three-year Korean War ended in 1953 - opened in Geneva in December, when a first round failed to produce a breakthrough.

Swiss Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Yasmine Chatila said details for the preliminary meeting - including the agenda - had yet to be finalized. Diplomats in Geneva said it was too early to say how long the upcoming Geneva round would last.

On Monday, a senior US delegation led by the principal US deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, Charles Kartman, arrived in Seoul to discuss issues related to the four-party talks.

The talks are scheduled amid signs of a thaw in relations between the rival Koreas. Last month, South Korea's new president, Kim Dae-jung, promised that Seoul would do nothing to undermine North Korea and that it would actively pursue reconciliation and cooperation between the South and North.

Iran oil subsidies challenged

TEHERAN (Reuters) - Iranian media sounded the alarm bells yesterday that the country, a major oil exporter, has become increasingly dependent on imports of gasoline and heating fuel to meet rapid demand growth.

The English-language *Iran News* said in an editorial the country's oil consumption was too high because of heavy state price subsidies and widespread smuggling in border provinces.

"It seems that the only solution is to make the prices of oil products realistic... We continue to witness the improper use of oil products," the daily newspaper said.

A senior Iranian industry official warned earlier this year that Iran might have to stop petroleum exports by 2013 if domestic consumption at current growth rates was not curbed. Iranian demand for oil products has reached as high as 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) from 500,000 bpd 20 years ago.

The rise has been fueled by cheap retail prices, smuggling, a population explosion, an old car fleet and few energy-saving devices at homes and factories. Motorists queuing at Tehran's petrol stations were mostly oblivious to the problem, preferring instead to complain that petrol prices were likely to be raised by the government on March 21.

Parliament has said it will increase petrol prices to 200 rials a liter. Tehran motorists were paying just 160 rials (about 5.3 US cents) for a liter of gasoline yesterday,

making Iran one of the cheapest places in the world to fill up.

"It's already too expensive... I will raise my fares," said a taxi driver as he filled up his battered, orange cab which started ploughing the capital's busy, polluted streets nearly 20 years ago.

But behind the drivers' complaints lies a daunting economic problem that seriously drains government coffers and could threaten Iran's capacity to export oil. Iran, the world's third largest crude exporter behind Saudi Arabia and Norway, spends \$11 billion a year just on domestic energy subsidies. Tehran has forecast earnings of \$16.2b. from its oil exports in the next Iranian year, which is not guaranteed as world oil prices slumber at their lowest levels in four years.

The English-language *Teheran Times* yesterday quoted a petroleum ministry official saying that Iran had imported four billion liters of kerosene and petrol worth \$700 million during the current Iranian year because of domestic shortages.

Even with eight refineries and a new multi-billion plant at the southern port of Bandar Abbas, Iran would still have to import \$460m-worth of petroleum products next year, an official has said.

Iran News said one reason for rising oil consumption was smuggling in border provinces, such as Sistan-Baluchistan where demand has risen 11.4 percent in the past five years and Ardabil where demand has increased 13%.

Study: US hate groups growing

NEW YORK (AP) - The number of organized hate groups in the US grew last year, mostly through new chapters of established white power organizations, the Southern Poverty Law Center said in a new report.

In the report, detailed yesterday by *The New York Times*, the research group said 474 hate groups and their chapters engaged in some form of racist behavior in 1997.

The center used a different methodology to count the groups,

so previous numbers cannot be directly compared. But if the old methodology had been used, the latest figures would represent a 20 percent increase from 1996.

Most of the newer groups, according to the center, come from a growth in the number of chapters of groups like the Ku Klux Klan and churches belonging to the Christian Identity movement, whose followers cite the Bible as the source for their racist views.

By ROBERT MAHONEY

BONN (Reuters) - Germany's opposition Social Democrats (SPD), who on Monday named Gerhard Schröder as their candidate for chancellor in September's elections, will aim to cut taxes, shut nuclear power plants, and introduce referendums if elected, the *Bild* newspaper reported yesterday.

Meanwhile, Chancellor Helmut Kohl flatly dismissed suggestions that he should not run for chancellor again, after Schröder's sweeping state-election victory on Sunday.

Asked who was the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) candidate in September's general election, Kohl said: "I am. The answer is that simple."

At the same time, Germany's labor crisis led some 80,000 public sector employees to strike yesterday, bringing chaos to many German cities, as the government and unions prepared for a fourth round of pay talks, the German public sector union OeTV said.

Workers' downed tools, dropped pens, and abandoned steering wheels to put pressure on the government ahead of talks affecting around 3.2 million public sector employees. The talks were due to begin yesterday afternoon.

Workers are angry at the federal government for not meeting their demands for a 4.5 percent wage increase and for seeking to cut sick pay and pension benefits.

Bild, citing a 30-page draft of an SPD paper that the party will discuss at its April convention in Leipzig, said Schröder and the SPD would try to cut the base income tax rate to 15% in stages from the current 25.9%, and the top tax rate to 49% from 53%.

A more ambitious tax reform proposed a year ago by Finance Minister Theo Waigel was defeated by the SPD majority in the upper house of parliament.

A Schröder victory would also give the SPD, which has been out of power for the 16 years of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's administration, its first chance to act on its opposition to nuclear power "as soon as possible," the newspaper said.



Public workers carry flags with their union's logo as they march to a central rally in Essen yesterday.

In past negotiations with the Kohl government, Schröder has said that the transition away from nuclear energy could not be achieved immediately, but could take as long as 30 years.

The SPD would also seek to introduce a mechanism for popular votes on specific issues, which currently are allowed in Germany only under extremely limited circumstances.

Other key points of the draft reported by *Bild* were:

- Introduction of an "eco-tax," raising the tax on petrol to finance a cut in social security premiums.

- Increasing monthly government support for families with children to 250 marks for the first and second children, from the current 220 marks.

- Creation of "service agencies" for temporary household help, to create jobs.

- Curtailing unemployment benefits for recipients who turn down job offers.

- Stiffer penalties for sexual offenders.

- Ensuring that football world championships and Olympic games remain accessible live via non-pay-TV.

- Introduction of immigration quotas.

Schröder predicted the CDU would ditch Kohl, winner of four general elections, as its candidate and replace him with the party's parliamentary chief.

"I expect them to substitute the luckless and worn out Helmut Kohl with Wolfgang Schäuble," he told ZDF television.

Kohl said the battle lines had been drawn between his center-right coalition and a "red-green" coalition of SPD and ecologist Greens.

"The result is disappointing and the consequences are clear to us," Kohl said. "We will conduct this campaign clearly convinced that we have a good chance. We will do everything to prevent 'red-

green."

Rumblings within the CDU began as unemployment crept toward a postwar record level of five million and Kohl's personal popularity rating slipped way below that of Schröder.

Kohl, in combative mood, said he had faced such challenges before and confounded the pollsters. He attacked Schröder on policy rather than personality.

"Just what do you stand for, Mr Schröder?" Kohl asked, echoing both the business community and trade unions, who have pressed the Lower Saxony premier for detailed answers to Germany's structural economic, and social problems.

Schröder, however, was savoring his victory, the SPD's best in Lower Saxony since before World War II. It won 47.9% of the vote to 35.9% for Kohl's CDU.

The scale of the triumph forced party chairman Oskar Lafontaine to drop his bid for the federal tick-

et. But Schröder said he and the more left-leaning Lafontaine would have no problem in working together.

"The cooperation has worked superbly over the past few months and it will work superbly in the future," he told a news conference in Bonn. "The SPD will speak with one voice."

The party's national committee voted 38 in favor of Schröder, with three abstentions, at a meeting to formally nominate the 53-year-old party moderate.

Schröder vowed to fight for votes in the "new center" of society. He said he would not have a shadow cabinet, but would present a team of top SPD officials in the early summer. He said Kohl's strong campaigning in Lower Saxony had backfired.

"Because he campaigned so hard and made it a pre-general election campaign, he contributed to our victory and to his own defeat," Schröder added.

French help Africans test peace force

By BERNARD EDINGER

DAKAR (Reuters) - Thousands of African troops backed by French aircraft have staged maneuvers in eastern Senegal to try out a prototype peace force for the troubled continent.

Exercise Guidimackha, named after the harsh desert scrubland where the borders of Senegal meet those of Mali and Mauritania, last week tested a French-inspired concept known as Reinforcement of African Peacekeeping Capacities (RECAMP).

French Defense Minister Alain Richard said RECAMP is based on a realization that public opinion in most Western countries is unwilling to accept troop casualties in faraway lands. But equally the West, through moral responsibility or self-interest, cannot allow parts of Africa to sink periodically into violent anarchy.

The past performance of African troops in keeping peace on their own continent has been uneven. But French planners, drawing from the experience of nearly four decades of interventions in Africa, say this can be corrected.

The French, who won the enthusiastic backing of their US and British rivals in Africa, say African troops would perform well if better trained and given modern equipment, logistics, air support, and transport.

For 10 days, four battalions of troops from Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Ghana, and

Guinea exercised 800 km. from the West African coast in sweltering heat, with supply lines operated by the French.

French Mirage fighter-bombers, guided from the ground by French spotters, added muscle. African soldiers injured in field accidents were swiftly evacuated by French helicopters to French-staffed field hospitals - a morale booster for fighters who know that efficient

medical care is at hand.

"Africa was once the southern end of the Cold War, but the world has changed," said French Col. Christian Baptiste, a paratrooper who has served as adviser to several African armies. "We can no longer be the 'gendarme' of the continent and should allow the Africans to take over the main mission themselves while backing them."

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History repeats itself in Indonesia

Recent anti-Chinese riots, sparked by the economic crisis, bring to mind outbreaks against the ethnic minority during the 1960s

By RONE TEMPEST

JIWEI, China - When she looked from the second-floor window of her home in a village outside Bandung, Indonesia, Liu Lunmei says she saw "total chaos." The homes and small shops owned by Chinese families were being looted and burned. "People were being killed, raped and robbed," Indonesian soldiers and police stood by and watched, sometimes even encouraging the anti-Chinese riots.

The terrible scenes the 76-year-old Liu described on a recent afternoon in her small apartment at the Heavenly Horse Overseas Chinese Farm in China's Fujian province took place 38 years ago, in 1960. But as anti-Chinese violence rages once again in Indonesia, sparked by that country's profound economic crisis, the memories dating back nearly four decades have an eerily contemporary ring.

Once again, rural bands of the majority population in Indonesia, the indigenous "pribumi," have taken to the streets to burn and loot. Once again - recalling violent outbreaks in 1960, 1965 and

1974 - the targets for their rage are the minority ethnic Chinese who constitute about 3 percent of the Indonesian population, or about 6 million people. Persecution of Chinese in Southeast Asia - is an old, sad story, one that has prompted some observers to describe the minority Chinese populations in Asia as the "Jews of the East." In fact, the most dramatic revision in this recurring script is how the Chinese government in Beijing has reacted - or failed to react - to the latest spate of anti-Chinese violence in Indonesia, which began last month and has flared sporadically since. No longer does China hold itself up as the all-embracing Motherland, ready to offer refuge in times of trouble to all Chinese people no matter where they live in the world.

At the time of the 1960 riots, which were preceded by an Indonesian government ban on Chinese-owned businesses in the countryside, senior officials in Beijing reacted emotionally, urging the Chinese population to return "home" - even those who had lived in Indonesia for gener-

ations.

Liu Lunmei, her husband and their five children came to China on boats dispatched for them along with 102,196 other Chinese refugees. A similar, although much smaller rescue flotilla was dispatched to Indonesia after the riots in 1965. China and Indonesia broke off diplomatic relations in 1967 and did not restore them until 1990.

In contrast, after the latest violence, the Chinese Foreign Ministry initially issued only a brief general statement, not mentioning Indonesia by name: "China is convinced that the concerned countries in Southeast Asia can overcome their current economic difficulties and maintain social stability and racial harmony."

The democratically elected Nationalist government in Taiwan has reacted more strongly. On Feb. 11, Taiwanese Economics Minister Wang Chih-kang urged Taiwanese businesses in Indonesia to halt commercial activities until the anti-Chinese riots have been suppressed. The Taiwanese media have given extensive coverage to the

Indonesian situation.

To get news about Indonesia, Liu and other refugees from the 1960 riots who live at the Heavenly Horse Farm, established for the refugees by the Chinese government in 1962, monitor television from Jakarta, the Indonesian capital, via an illegal satellite dish on the roof of their apartment building or clandestinely watch grainy news reports picked up from Taiwan, 100 miles off the mainland coast.

Fearful of exacerbating the problems in Java and other Indonesian islands, Chinese officials have been very cautious in their public statements. Privately, however, they have welcomed diplomatic interventions by the US and other countries cautioning against inciting ethnic conflict.

Torn between a strong sense of Chinese nationalism and the need to maintain friendly relations with struggling Southeast Asian countries - all of which have large minority Chinese populations - the Beijing government seems at a loss.

China's economic boom has been fueled in great part through

investments from international conglomerates controlled by overseas Chinese families in Indonesia and other Southeast Asian countries. If it took a strong stand on the persecution of ethnic Chinese populations in Indonesia, China would risk disrupting these economic ties.

Likewise, if the Indonesian government fails to control the riots, or encourages them as the army did in 1965, it runs the risk of capital flight on a massive scale. According to some estimates, ethnic Chinese in Indonesia control 75 percent of private-sector activity.

The result of these developments is that ethnic Chinese living in countries across Southeast Asia no longer have a protector they can count on in Beijing. The ethnic Chinese in Indonesia, said Singapore University political scientist Leo Suryadinata, are "at the mercy of the Indonesian state. There is realistically very little China or the international community can do to help them."

This, in turn, has sounded a new alarm in potential refugee-receiving states such as Australia, where many wealthy

Indonesian families already have secondary residences. Perth, in western Australia, is only three hours away from Jakarta by plane and has become a favorite settling place for wealthy Indonesian Chinese.

But even if China reverted to its old ways and issued another appeal for its threatened descendants to return to the Motherland, it is not at all certain how many would come.

THE INDONESIAN Chinese who came to China in the 1960s have had very difficult lives. They arrived before the country entered the dark decade of the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution.

Chen Haiyan, 61, a former Heavenly Horse Farm manager whose wife is Indonesian, said he was sent to the mountains at the beginning of the Cultural Revolution for "education through labor." That education consisted of crushing limestone with a sledgehammer for two years.

After being beckoned home to the Motherland, the refugees were also attacked by marauding Red Guards. "We were accused

of having too many overseas relations," Chen said as a television tuned to an Indonesian channel flickered in the corner of his living room.

Many refugees fled to Hong Kong, or even back to Indonesia. Liu Lunmei, who came to China on one of the ships sent by Mao Tse-tung, recalled the hardships of the early days. For one thing, she did not speak Chinese and had to learn it by attending night school.

Even speaking with a reporter in her kitchen recently, she occasionally lapsed back into Indonesian.

In Indonesia, her family owned a small business. But in China, she and her husband were put to work on the farm planting peanuts in the red dirt soil.

"When we came here, we had to start from scratch," she said. "I didn't think I would ever get used to conditions here. Compared to Indonesia, it is always either too hot or too cold here." Despite the adjustments and hardships, however, she said she is glad she fled Indonesia, the land of her birth.

(Los Angeles Times)

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Secular vs. religious on the stage

By HELEN KAYE

Last Thursday Albert Cohen took to the stage as Gershon in the Cameri Theater's revival of *Fleischer*, the play by Yigal Even-Or that created a huge uproar when it premiered in 1993. Gershon is a neighbor, a steady customer at the Fleischer's butcher shop, and a friend of the family.

The store is in an old Tel Aviv neighborhood, and as the aging residents die or move away, the hard-core move in. The Fleischer's store is non-kosher and their efforts to stay in business, including the acquisition of a kosher certificate, prove futile. They die when their store is torched, and their epitaph is the ironic comment by the slippery haredi lawyer, Hundi, that the store may be rebuilt as a synagogue.

Bluntly put, *Fleischer* pits the secular against the religious, and the screams of fury came from the religious sector that termed the play "antisemitic," "anti-religious," "defamatory" and "rabble-rousing." The row died down after a while, but it was great for ticket sales.

"The Cameri is very much a political theater," says Cohen, "and the only reason we're renewing the play is because of politics, because of the perception that the religious extremists really are taking over. Look at the violence [between the religious and the secular] in Pardes Hanna."

Gershon is not Cohen's only role at the Cameri, even though he officially retired last summer. He plays Johnson to Yossi Yadin's Halperin in the long-running comedy *Halperin and Johnson*, and he's in a children's play, *Magical Journey*. He's also playing in Bernard Slade's comedy *Same Time Next Year* at the Simita Theater in Jaffa and is the mayor in *The Pled Piper of Hamelin*, another popular children's show that tours.

They had a party at his house the other week to celebrate the 100th performance of *Pled Piper*. Cohen's spacious Ramat Gan apartment is perfect for parties, which he gives at the drop of a hat.

"Everybody knows that for every Cameri premiere there's a

party at Bert's," he says happily. "After the premiere of *Les Misérables* we packed 80 people in here. I used to give big parties even before we enlarged the place."

It's a bright apartment, filled with comfortable furniture, lots of pictures and knick-knacks. One wall, above the table in the dining alcove, is all pictures of Cohen in his various roles. He's given pride of place to a collage of pictures "from every show I was ever in at the Cameri. Yossi [Carmon] collected them."

Cohen loves the Cameri, and nobody there has a word against him. When he received a Life Achievement award from the theater in July, there were cheers, whistles and a thunder of applause that made him gulp and reach for a tissue.

He's been with the Cameri for 40 years. In the 1950s he was at Habimah, Beit Lessin, the Broom Theater and in the great Giora Godik musicals. He played Motel the tailor in *Fiddler on the Roof*, Freddy in *My Fair Lady* and Bud Framp in *How to Succeed in Business...*

"I started out as a singer," he says modestly.

Cohen was born in Bulgaria in 1932. His father was an optician. His mother was a housewife, and whereas "a Polish Jewish mother wants her son to be a doctor or an engineer, Bulgarian Jewish parents want their son to be an artist. Today the Bulgarians don't even have yogurt [their national dish] but they have great theater and great opera."

Cohen says that already at four he made his parents wait dinner while he performed. He was only 15 when he was cast as Puck in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. This was after the end of the war. Bulgaria's Jews were not threatened during most of it, and by the time they might have been, the Russians were at the borders and then took over the country.

His family was not Zionist, Cohen recalls, but telling this story, his eyes sparkle even more, he leans forward in his chair and then gets up, his arms waving.

"In 1947 Ben-Gurion came to Sofia and took over the National

Theater. He spoke to us in Russian and said, 'Comrades, I know the Fascists didn't kill you. The Russians are not disturbing you, but we are building a new nation. A nation for Jews. Come! Be a part of it.' In two years nearly all of Bulgaria's 45,000 Jews packed up their belongings and came."

The Cohens came in 1949 and young Albert did his army service in one of the army troupes, singing and playing the accordion. He got his first accordion when he was nine and has been playing ever since. In the early years he played at weddings, parties and bar mitzvahs to supplement his income, even when he was already getting feature roles at Habimah.

One night in 1952, he recounts, "I'd finished with *The Brothers Karamazov* and by 10 o'clock I was already at Beit Habayal, playing. Suddenly I saw [the great Habimah actor Rafail] Klatchkin. 'Don't give me away,' I begged him, because it would never have done in those days for a Habimah actor to moonlight. He never did."

Cohen has scores of stories connected to the roles he's done, especially in all the Hanoch Levine plays. Like Carmon and Zaharira Harifai, he's known as a Levine actor, able to take on the playwright's quirky characters and make them come alive. He's been in eight of them, including *Ya'acobi and Leydental*, *The Sorrows of Job* and *The Suitcase Packers*.

But one of his best stories concerns his late wife's baby grand. His first wife was Ruth Menze, pianist for the IPO and assistant to Leonard Bernstein for 30 years. The piano belonged to Bernstein. He gave it to her in the '50s and whenever Lennie was here [in Israel], this was his second home."

Menze died in 1988. Five years ago Cohen married Dea, "and she's also a piano teacher," he marvels. "I didn't know that when we started dating."

Cohen doesn't know to this day why he became an actor, just that he is and intends to go on acting for as long as he can. He leans forward, saying "You can decide to be an engineer or a journalist or a doctor, but you have to be born an artist."



"You can decide to be an engineer or a journalist but you have to be born an artist," says Albert Cohen, who has been with the Cameri for 40 years. (Haramay)

The travails of 'La traviata'

CLASSIC DISCS

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The late conductor Sir Georg Solti specialized in the operas of Verdi but did not conduct *La traviata* for most of his life. When he finally decided to tackle the opera two years ago at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, the production, which was also recorded, drew world-wide attention.

Solti presents a most exciting *La traviata*, above all in its simplicity.

His tempi are consistent, and he creates astonishingly perfect balance between stage and pit. Solti supports his singers in a most generous manner; he is with them throughout and gives them his enormous musical experience and deep understanding of Verdi. Granted, this might not be the most exciting *La traviata* available on disc today. It lacks, for example, the flowing emotions of Kleiber or the leading superstars of today's opera world aside from Angela Gheorghiu, who was at the beginning of her stellar career at the time. But the young singers on hand, the stars of the future, add a special charm to the recording.

Gheorghiu is a most human Violetta, a young, loving woman who tries to open a new chapter in her life, a woman who wants to enjoy life and love and to run away from her former life but to no avail. Frank Lopardo is a vivacious Alfredo, even though his voice is neither deep enough nor that crystal clear as some of the other Alfredos before him. Leo Nucci is most human, despite the fact that his Germont will not give Violetta an inch.

This recording features solid operatic singing and a dramatic performance full of warmth and compassion. A very good recording which took place during live performances, though the noises from the stage are quite annoying. (Decca 1448119-2)

RICCARDO MUTI'S *La traviata* (1993) is entirely different. Muti, also in live performance, presents a rather jumpy and nervous *La traviata*. His tempi are unpredictable and he changes them erratically and too often, such as in the incredibly fast entrance of the male chorus in Act 2 Scene 2.

Some love soprano Tiziana Fabbricini, others argue that her voice is rather unpleasant. It is interesting to hear her on disc and would probably be so in the opera house, but above all this is a soprano, no who is much more problematic and lacks warmth and lyricism. (Sony K2S 52486)

THE GREATEST Violetta of all is Maria Callas. For many, there was no Violetta before Callas and no one after her. From her 1955 recording, one can understand why. Callas grows with Violetta from scene to scene and in the final act, you simply cannot avoid shedding a tear for her cruel destiny.

The way she reads Germont's letter in total despair is mesmerizing in its dramatic power. Carlo Maria Giulini conducts with fiery gusto, sympathy and charm, and Giuseppe di Stefano is a great Alfredo. This too is a live and far from clean recording, but Callas is worth everything. She really is the one and only. (EMI 7636282)

Russians rush for seats at renovated cinemas

By CAROL J. WILLIAMS

In the cavernous lobby of Moscow's ancient, 89-year-old Khudozhestvenny cinema at the head of Arbat Street, plush crimson theater seats nest in rows across the marble floor as they await installation. Brass-edged glass ticket booths and a state-of-the-art sound system are the next investments planned for the 600-seat cinema — one of only a handful in Moscow that draw enough moviegoers to bankroll its own floor-to-ceiling renovation.

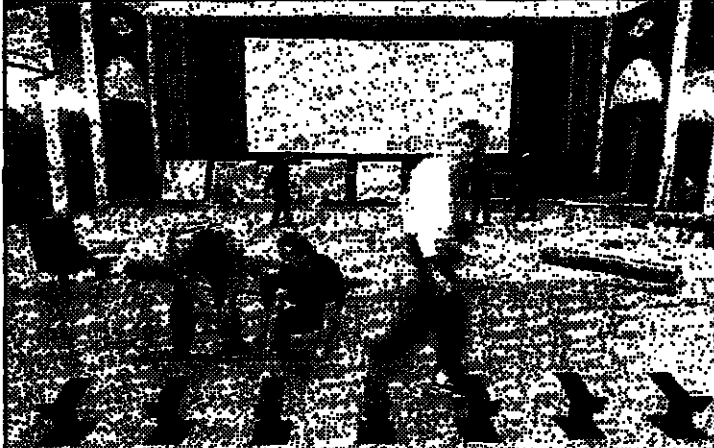
But the movers and shakers of Russia's revitalized film world have suddenly hit on the connection between the box office and creature comforts in this age of more discriminating, post-Communist consumers.

With top-notch new cinemas like Kodak Kinomir and modernized old movie houses like Khudozhestvenny drawing capacity audiences while the dowdy majority of theaters stand empty, filmmakers and financiers are

joining forces to ensure that moviegoing explodes like popcorn. Spurred by the promise of soaring ticket sales as Russians regain enough disposable income to resurrect their Soviet-era habit of taking in an occasional film, investors are drafting plans for new multiplex cinemas across the country and gearing up for what Russia's most renowned director predicts will be the film industry's Klondike.

"What's the sense of creating great films if people have to watch them on tattered screens, in the cold, seated on rock-hard chairs and catching a whiff of the theater's ancient toilet?" asks Oscar-winning director Nikita Mikhalkov, newly named head of the Russian Cinematographers Union and chief crusader for resurrecting "his countrymen's moviegoing passion."

"The experience of watching a film begins with the cinema environment, and most of our theaters are horrid," says the director whose Stalinist-era memoir *Burtu*



Crews install new seats during refurbishment of the Khudozhestvenny movie theater in central Moscow. (Jacqueline Min Foster/Los Angeles Times)

by the Sun won the Academy Award for best foreign-language film in 1995.

"Bringing them up to world standard is not a matter of choice." Now the most sought-

after filmmaker in Eastern Europe, Mikhalkov has embarked on a mission to attract local and foreign investors to bring Russia's 2,000 urban movie theaters up to Western comfort levels. Most of

the cinemas built during the Soviet era, when film was strongly supported by the Communist government as a means of mass propaganda, have fallen into disrepair as state subsidies have disappeared. Some rent out space in their lobbies to vendors of clothing, cosmetics and even furniture, clogging the premises with noisy distractions that further discourage filmgoers. The handful of modern new movie theaters, on the other hand, are packed with young Russians.

Kinomir, which opened in October 1996, is a glittering complex that shows first-run films. It is outfitted with contoured plush armchairs, and sold 630,000 tickets through the end of last year, selling out most evening showings of Russian-subtitled American movies and averaging 70 percent occupancy even for less successful films, says Anna Yegorova, deputy marketing director at the theater.

Kinomir's success, despite tickets priced as high as 70 rubles

(\$11.67), has persuaded some Russian entrepreneurs to cobble together financing for other first-class theaters. The media arm of financial baron Vladimir Gusinsky has announced a \$120 million project to build or retrofit dozens of cinemas in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Nizhny Novgorod, Kazan and Yekaterinburg.

Sergei D. Livnev, the brash young president of Gorky Film Studios, has embarked on a veritable storming of the Russian countryside with design concepts and financing packages for a network of new movie houses stretching from Moscow to the Far East.

Golden Ring is also "aggressively pursuing multiplex development in Russia," says the company's Moscow director, Paul Heth, although he declines to discuss specifics of the expansion plans. Both Mikhalkov and Livnev point out that the Russian cinema market during the Soviet era was the second most important economic sector after alcohol and tobacco. (Los Angeles Times)

Vienna Philharmonic out of tune with the '90s

By JAN HERMAN

Women still need not apply. Fitto for people of color. Twelve months after reluctantly ending its 155-year ban against female musicians because of pressure from Austrian and American feminists, the renowned Vienna Philharmonic continues to thumb its nose at players who are not white males, its critics contend.

The National Organization for Women (NOW) says the orchestra remains dedicated to "a racist and misogynist philosophy," notwithstanding the admission of harpist Anna Leikes last year as the first woman with full membership in the organization.

NOW and the International Alliance for Women in Music have called for renewed protests at Manhattan's Carnegie Hall, where the globe-trotting Viennese musicians gave three concerts last weekend. Meanwhile, Sonja Abinger, a member of the orchestra's parliament, said the orchestra has resorted to sly maneuvers and sham procedures in hiring practices covertly designed to discourage women from applying. "They do everything to keep women out. They change the rules, create new obstacles. I'd say half the orchestra is anti-women — still," she said.

The evidence, she asserts, is the philharmonic's recent attempt to

fill four positions for which 35 women requested auditions. Fourteen were invited to try out last December; five showed up; 21 were deemed unsuitable; 21 were denied auditions — including Viennese violist Gertrude Rossbacher, who had been hired in 1987 for the Berlin Philharmonic by its legendary conductor, Herbert von Karajan. When she applied last April to the Vienna Philharmonic, officials told her she was too old; she was 35.

Since 1981, the Vienna Philharmonic has said that it might eventually accept female players but that "change takes time." In spite of Leikes's appointment (at age 57), the orchestra's pace seems no faster now. The Vienna Philharmonic, with 148 men and one female member, has one of the music world's worst records for gender bias. Among the major Central European orchestras within a 300-mile radius of Vienna, women constitute less than 7 percent at each.

US orchestras do better than their European counterparts — there women hold 36% of the seats — "because of more rigorous equal-opportunity measures," Harvard University researcher Erin Lehman said. Yet five major US orchestras have current or recently settled gender-related lawsuits.

(Los Angeles Times)

Young pianist returns from London with new maturity

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Not long ago, 21-year-old pianist Shlomi Shaban returned home from a three-year stint in London, where he completed his higher education at the Royal Academy of Music, studying with Sulamita Aronovsky.

It was there, he said, that he made a decision: that he does indeed want to be a professional musician and pursue the career that, until that point, had been essentially dictated to him.

"Suddenly I had to become independent. Until going to London I had always lived at home. Suddenly I had to learn to be alone, to live alone and for a musician it is very important. For the first time I really had time to think, to reflect and not follow the flow automatically."

As a musician, Shaban matured in London.

"My teacher taught me to be much more self-controlled. Until then I was very spontaneous. It's not that I have lost that, but now my spontaneity is much more controlled, much more professional."

Shaban is a consummate musician who knows that classical music is not the only music on earth.

"I'm also very much interested

in lighter popular music and I might even play it at some point, not as my major focus but in order to diversify. In any case, I would like to play all kinds of music, chamber, contemporary, electronic, all styles of music written in this day and age."

He even admits that he writes light music and lyrics, but at the moment, only for the drawer. Shaban knows that there is more to life than just playing music.

"I love to read, go to the theater, have fun, go out, eat, travel, girls and what not. I am first and foremost a normal human being and only later a musician."

"Of course the music is deeply rooted in my body and soul, and I hear music in my head all day long. But one must live well and it must go in tandem with the career; you cannot separate the two."

He admits that although he has a lot of musician friends, he has never had a pianist for a friend.

"Pianists do not interest me. They are usually people who are above all interested in their own instrument, in how they sound and in themselves. I try to be different and so it is hard for me to get closer to them and make contact with them."

That said, Shaban still spends five to six hours at the piano daily.

"There used to be a time when I was practicing like mad, but now it is more normal, as I have learned that the quality of time is much more important than the quantity."

Although Shaban seems to abhor the inherent individuality of many pianists, in his Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra-IBA debut tomorrow he plays a very individualistic work, Chopin's *Andante spianato* and *Grande polonaise brillante*.

Yet he modifies it by saying that "this is not just a virtuosic work. It is very elegant and contains a lot of poetry. It is a melodious, very beautiful work."

This concert is Shaban's only orchestral appearance in Israel for now. His other local concerts are chamber-music ones.

"This is a small country and there are a lot of local young pianists. Which is why if I ever enter a competition it will not be here."

"I believe in the shock experience of the audience. Playing too much in front of an audience who knows exactly who you are and how you sound does you no good."

Shlomi Shaban plays with the JSO tomorrow evening at 8:30 at the Henry Crown Auditorium in Jerusalem.

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Russia and Iran

When Zeke Jones, a 120-pound American wrestler competing in an international tournament in Teheran last month, entered a packed arena to receive his second-place medal, he waved a small Iranian flag. The all-male Iranian crowd rose to its feet with a roar of approval at the American's gesture of friendship, but when the medals were given out, the US flag was not raised, nor was America's national anthem played. The incident illustrates both America's endearing openness and innocence, and the depth of the hostility of the Iranian regime to the US, despite the recent charm offensive.

Today, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's adviser Uzi Arad begins talks with US special envoy Robert Gallucci regarding ongoing efforts to convince Russia to clamp down on the transfer of missile technology to Iran. In January, Russia issued a decree giving itself the authority to ban the export of certain sensitive dual-use technologies. On March 9, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is to go to Washington for another meeting with Vice President Al Gore, and is expected to try to convince the US that the new decree means Russia is now serious about stopping the technology flow to the Iranian missile program.

Also today, Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky returns from his meetings with Russian leaders on this same subject. On his second visit as a minister to the land where he was imprisoned for nine years, Sharansky warned that "we have a very serious time limit" in which to stop the Iranian missile program, and suggested that the West try to find alternatives to the economic interests that are driving Russia's relationship with Iran.

The fact is that Russia is mortgaging its own national interest, not just that of the United States and Israel, by feeding the Iranian missile program. While the US may be the Great Satan in Iran, it is Russia that is most directly competing with Iran for influence in the newly independent republics that lie between them. If Russia were not so unscrupulous and cash-strapped, it might be working with the US and Israel to prevent Iran from developing its missile program.

Intelligence briefings, appeals to Russia's own national interest or to its sense of international responsibility, have all fallen on deaf ears. What should be clear by now is that Russian involvement with Iran is driven by money, and that Russia's behavior will only change if the price attached to that behavior is higher than the profit.

Since the Russians have been immune to the force of reason, it is time to cut to the chase. The

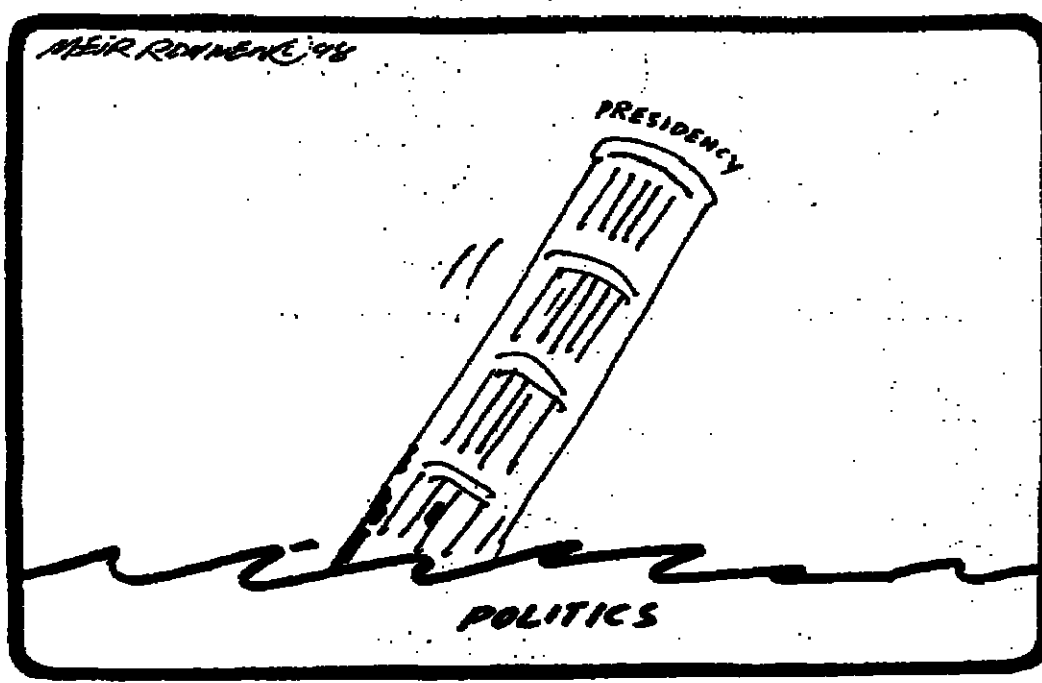
United States has two programs that are potentially worth billions of dollars to Russia: the successor to the aged and luckless space station Mir and the lucrative market for launching American satellites into space. The Russians already know that their Iranian missile business is putting both of these big-ticket items in jeopardy, but they are still exploring whether they can have their cake and eat it, too. With such excellent economic leverage at its fingertips, it is mystifying why the Clinton administration would choose to leave any doubt in Russia's mind.

According to a February 23 *Washington Times* report, the Russian export-control announcement is contradicted by US intelligence reports that the Russian and Iranian security services are still cooperating in a joint missile research center. In the face of such evidence of duplicity, the administration should drop its opposition to Congressional efforts to cut off space cooperation as long as Russia continues aiding Iran's missile program.

After going to the brink of war with Iraq in order to prevent Saddam Hussein from developing weapons of mass destruction, it is somewhat bizarre that the US seems reluctant to use economic tools to accomplish the same goal in Iran. The only explanation is that the US is concerned that financial pressure will harm its relations with Russia, and perhaps even the stability of the Russian government. This attitude, however, is backward and demeaning to the United States. Since Russia is directly threatening US security interests by aiding Iran, Russia should fear damage to its relations with the US, not vice versa.

There is no time to waste months sending experts back and forth in the hope that Russia will set up an effective export-control regime. The only thing that matters now is results on the ground that make it clear that Russia is cutting off all — be it official, unofficial, or covert — cooperation with the Iranian missile program. Unless the US, through legislation or unilateral executive action, makes it clear that Russia must choose between US space cooperation and Iranian weapons programs, Russia will try to have it both ways — just as Iran itself is trying to soften its isolation without lessening its support for international aggression.

There is still time to prevent the security nightmare of an aggressive Iranian regime armed with missiles that can reach both Israel and Europe. Accomplishing this goal, however, demands the United States not let itself be duped by delaying tactics and diplomatic chaff, and link hard consequences to Russia's failure to control itself.



Electing a president

DAVID NEWMAN

By the end of the day, we will know who will be the next president of the State of Israel. If we are to believe the media reports, President Ezer Weizman will beat contender Shaul Amur by a fair margin. The fact that an incumbent president has never lost a bid for a second term (the previous two-term presidents were Itzhak Ben Zvi, Zalman Shazar and Chaim Herzog) has had but a relatively small influence on the members of Knesset who will enter the polling booth today.

Never has the election of a president been as political as this time round. The president is meant to stand above politics and to be a representative of all of the people, regardless of his or her own political, social, religious or cultural background.

Past presidential candidates have been nominated by the respective political parties but the elections never took on the political intrigue which is now taking place, as the supporters of each side attempt to cajole a few additional Knesset members to vote for their own candidate.

The two candidates represent the opposites and diversities of Israeli culture. Ezer Weizman is an Ashkenazi, an ex-general who created the Israeli Air Force. After turning to politics, he was responsible for the political revolution in 1977 which brought the Likud to power. Finally, as a political dove he has been one of the most prominent supporters of the current peace process between Israel and the Palestinians.

Shaul Amur is of Mizrahi origin. For years he has been mayor of Migdal Ha'emek, a Galilee development town. He does not have his opponent's links with the political or military establishment and he sees himself — in his own words — as the first authentic representative of "Second Israel" to run for the exalted post of president.

All but one of the presidents to date have been Ashkenazi. The one exception, Yitzhak Navon, was seen by many as representing a small elite within the Sephardi world who served his apprenticeship in the circles of the establish-

ment by becoming David Ben-Gurion's private secretary. All the incumbents to date have been male and it has never even been suggested that a woman should run for this post in the past. The most recent incumbents, Weizman and Herzog, have had illustrious military careers, something which remains a major vote-catcher in contemporary Israel.

If the president is supposed to be a man or woman of the people, then it should be up to the people to choose the person for the job

ACCORDING to all public surveys, Weizman commands enormous popularity. This is only to be expected given his popular, often uncouth, touch and his ability to say — as president — the sort of things that we would normally expect to hear in the marketplace and the schoolyard, but not the presidential mansion. He clearly has the common touch and, to his credit, he has made a point of visiting every bereaved family — and there have been many during his five years of presidency — who have lost a child or a parent during the course of their military service or as a result of a terror atrocity.

Given what we know about Amur, it is very likely that he too would have displayed the same common touch had he been the incumbent during the past five years. But the fact that he has not occupied such a prominent position means that we simply know less about him. Not having been in the limelight he clearly started out as the underdog, nor was this helped by the fact that many saw his selection by Netanyahu as nothing more

than small compensation for having lost out on all the previous internal Likud races for posts of prominence, such as Knesset speaker or cabinet minister.

When Chaim Herzog was first elected president he, like Weizman today, was also a Labor candidate during a Likud administration. But he enjoyed the support of the religious parties, partly because of the reputation of his father, the first Chief Rabbi of Israel. He also enjoyed the reputation of being a military hawk within the Labor Party, unlike Weizman who is clearly seen as being to the Left of the political spectrum on matters relating to peace.

There is, of course, no reason why an Israeli president should not come from one of those groups — Mizrahi, women, religious, even Arab — who do not share equally in the distribution of power in Israel. Were Labor leader Ehud Barak to follow his words with actions, he should be the first to vote for Amur given his public apology to the development towns for the 40 years of social and economic discrimination practiced by his party towards this sector.

But this is unlikely to be the case in the ballot box today. The only advantage of the vote is the fact that, for a change, it is truly secret and all the promises made for nothing once the Knesset member is inside the polling booth alone with his own thoughts and preferences.

It is time for the presidential vote to be taken out of the hands of the Knesset and, as behooves a democracy, to be transferred to the people. Unlike Knesset elections, there should be a ban on active electioneering or campaigning, allowing the past achievements of the candidate to speak for themselves. If the president is supposed to be a man or woman of the people, then it should be up to the people to choose the person for the job.

The writer is professor of political geography and director of the Humphrey Institute for Social Research at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

Mothers' work

RUTHIE BLUM

Israel's florists raked it in last week as the country celebrated Mothers' Day. Not every mom in this country had reason to feel a part of that celebration, however. Take the case of my friend, Gita, whom I have known since we were at university together.

Gita is religious and I am secular, but that didn't prevent us from becoming fast friends when we met 20 years ago. We were both from the States; we were both heavy smokers; we both studied literature; we shared a similar political ideology; we both married Israelis; and we both believed in storing our university degrees in moth balls indefinitely — until completing what we considered to be the most valuable job on the market: staying home to raise our children.

Our conservative political leanings — though by no means rampant in our social circles — were not considered unusual. Our addiction to nicotine, too, was taken in stride, even by non-smoking acquaintances.

But when Gita and I had our first babies, the disdain our housebound motherhood evoked was overwhelming.

"What in the world do you do all day long?" became the inevitable and dreaded question with which each of us had to contend, whether at a cocktail party or a PTA meeting. "Isn't your brain turning into mush?" was another favorite. "Well, if you can afford it..." was a choice afterthought.

Indeed, neither Gita nor I could afford it, a fact which our husbands pointed out each time they saw a bank statement. (Had we worked, we responded, our salaries would have gone to pay for child-care, as well as to finance a wardrobe suitable for appearing in public places other than the sandbox and the supermarket.)

Regarding what we did all day long, the answer "nothing" most naturally came to mind and to lip. "Nothing" was even the answer

We worked 'round the clock: cleaning, cooking, changing, diapers, singing lullabies, climbing monkey bars and shlepping strollers up and down stairs

our children gave their classmates when asked the same question about our occupations.

What we did was work like dogs 'round the clock: cleaning, cooking, changing diapers, singing lullabies, reciting nursery rhymes, climbing monkey bars, and shlepping strollers up and down stairs.

Spending so much time with our offspring made us view life differently from others. Observing and interacting with our babies put literature, religion, politics, and certainly psychology in a tangible context. Daily, we discussed all of these fields — albeit in child-interrupted spurts.

Daily, too, we exchanged stories of slights from other women. We laughed at the irony of our position, and debated whether this choice of ours was really beneficial to our families. After all, the children of the working mothers around us often seemed better-adjusted than ours. They were certainly better-behaved.

But Gita had something I lacked: the kind of faith and resolve which enabled her to smile when she was put down for being a housewife. Every time I wept into my pillow at the close of an endless, tedious, child-focused day, I wished had that kind of faith.

The realization that making a life out of taking care of a household was even more anachronistic than I had imagined hit home with a big bang when a *haredi* woman, sharing a room with me in the hospital where I had just given birth to my second child, sat diligently grading pupils' papers. She was kind enough to take time out to mention that she was on her eighth. Mea She'anin and Sheinkin, it turned out, have something in common, after all.

Several years have passed since the days when Gita would remind me that doing the right thing is its own reward. I knew then, as I do now, that she was right.

Nevertheless, I abandoned ship at some point. And every time, since then, when asked what I do, I feel a little bit like a flunk for answering that I'm a columnist, and getting credit for it.

This Mothers' Day Gita probably received flowers from her children, even though hers was not the kind of motherhood being honored last week.

Fortunately for her family, Gita is too busy being a mother to be preoccupied with society's stamp of approval.

The writer is a Jerusalem Post columnist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EMUNAH'S POSITION

Sir, — I was surprised to see the headline and first paragraph of Michal Yudelman's reportage of the press conference held by the Coalition for Promoting Women in Politics, stating that the women's organizations may sue the *haredi* parties for discrimination (Feb. 25).

One of the participants in the press conference did mention petitioning the High Court against *haredi* platforms that ban women from political office in response to a question from the media.

However, Emunah (the National Religious Women's Organization) would never agree to this attempt to control *haredi* parties' religious rulings. As we have not been approached by the women who vote for these parties, we have no right to force our views on them.

It is true, as I stated at the conference, that there are accepted halachic opinions agreeing to women's elections (witness the

fact that the NRP had women MKs in the past, runs women on its list and now has two Emunah members in the Jerusalem Municipality), but there are *haredi* rabbis who disagree.

The pluralism discussed so frequently in our democratic society has to work in all directions, whether or not we agree with what is said by any group (to paraphrase Voltaire's famous statement on fighting to the death for the rights of his opponents to express their opinions), and as long as there is no danger to the public as a result.

Emunah joined the women's coalition in order to advance political aims for women, but also in order to build bridges between religious and secular women in whatever spheres it is possible to do so.

ROCHEL SYLVESTKY
Chairperson, Emunah

Bnei Brak

HALACHA, NOT MINHAG

Sir, — Contrary to what was written by Greer Fay Cashman in her article "The heart and soul of Shlomo Carlebach" (Nov. 12), please be informed that I did not and do not permit any women to violate the halachic prohibition of

singing in front of a mixed audience. This prohibition is a Halacha, and not a Minhag.

RABBI MORDECAI TENDLER

New York

STOP THE HATRED

Sir, — I do not understand why Israeli politicians are placing so much weight and importance on the Palestinian Covenant and its paragraphs. Deleting those paragraphs concerning the annihilation of Israel will stop the Palestinians from killing Israelis?

Let us instead demand that the Palestinian Authority cease teaching and instilling hatred of anything Israeli and Jewish in Palestinian schools, through Palestinian newspapers and through vitriolic public speeches. That way at least we can hope to have a genuine peace with the next generation of Palestinians.

MICHAEL PAGGY
Petah Tikva

UNWANTED CONCERT

Sir, — Like most people, I am all for progress. But some forms of progress do not assist in daily living — some of it can drive you to distraction.

I refer to this new "please hold" method when trying to telephone a bank, an airline office, whatever. I like to talk to another real voice, ask the question I called for, I don't want to listen to a concert while the meter is ticking on my phone bill. One phones for a reason, not to listen to a concert.

GERTRUDE COHEN

Ra'anana

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On March 4, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported on Nazi terror in Vienna where Jewish shops were compelled to close for several hours.

50 years ago: On March 4, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that a pick-up truck containing explosives blew up in front of the

Salameh building at the head of Stanton Street in Haifa and 14 persons were killed, including two Palestine constables, and 26 wounded. Later a five-year-old Jewish child and an adult were killed in a sporadic fire which broke out in the lower Hadar Hacarmel.

25 years ago: On March 4,

1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that after the murder in Khartoum of three diplomats — two American and one Belgian — in the Black September-held Saudi Arabian embassy, Sudan refused to discuss a deal over the release of the hostages held in the building.

Alexander Zvielli

Jerusalem 150

Who takes care of the caregivers?

Many Israelis are caught in a juggling act: holding down a job, looking after a family and caring for a needy elderly relative. Are their own needs being met? Dina Shiloh investigates



Daughters or daughters-in-law tend to be the elderly's prime caregivers, and they're very often overtaxed. (Isaac Harari)



This CD-ROM is the largest and most up-to-date collection of information on Israeli geography, history, archeology and topography.

The whole of Israel at your fingertips



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Eretz Yisrael - Encyclopedia Geographica Historica (Land of Israel - Geographical and Historical Encyclopedia), a CD-ROM in Hebrew, by the Center for Educational Technology in Ramat Aviv, based on the printed volume by Emanuel Hareuveni, for teenagers and adults. NIS 299. Rating: four-and-a-half stars out of five.

This professional and thorough piece of software can be used as a database to search for something specific, or just for enjoyment by sampling, like wine tasting or window shopping. The largest and most up-to-date collection of information on Israeli geography, history, archeology and topography, it is an appropriate gift to Israel on its jubilee, and would be a fine present for any Hebrew-speaking person interested in this subject matter. Hareuveni, a geographer, invested 20 years in his encyclopedia, which is brought to life on this disk. Like any encyclopedia, it lists places on the map in Eretz Yisrael by name, alphabetically. A total of 2,667 sites are included - an incredible number for a little country like Israel.

Just type in the name, or just the first few letters, and click to find it easily. Each entry presents a profile of the place - whether it is a city, town, army camp, former refugee camp, kibbutz, moshav or archaeological site. Facts include the population size, demographics, socio-economic grading, type of local government and usually a gallery of photographs, manuscripts and other illustrations. There are hundreds for Jerusalem alone, 43 for the city of Safed. The thousands of color and black-and-white illustrations can be viewed in miniature or expanded to cover the whole screen. It's a shame there are no video films, however, and full texts of materials, including stories about settlements, would have been helpful in addition to the bare facts.

If you're looking for something less specific, you can select variables to find a number of sites that fit the criteria: which of 13 settlement organizations (from Amman to Ha'oved Hatzioni) founded them; the year of establishment; the geographical area; the location by latitude and longitude; number of residents and so on. One can even search for all settlements in a certain geographical area or at a certain altitude. The program automatically sifts through the database and comes up with locations that fit.

For those who really want to go deep into the subject matter, there is text from Qadmoniot Geographic Research Ltd. of 1996, with information on history, borders and other themes.

Although the font is rather biblical and less easy on the eyes than modern ones, it is readable. Any material - text, photos or other illustrations - can be cut, pasted and stored in the Accent multi-lingual word processing program. Congratulations to CET and Hareuveni for this welcome piece of work.

Mazal and Bracha (Mazal U'Bracha), a CD-ROM in English and Hebrew, by Rohnik Publishers, Something Different (Tel Aviv), Dava Multimedia and the Dava Corporation, requires Windows 95, for all ages, NIS 149. Rating: three stars out of five.

The idea of producing personalized greeting cards is not new. The Israeli software company Pineapple produced a CD-ROM for making funny, animated cards, either for sending digitally over the Internet or capturing onto a diskette. It also has an Internet site, in conjunction with an American greeting-card company, in which users can personalize animated messages that are about half a minute long and send them to loved ones and friends via e-mail.

Now Rohnik, which for years has published Israeli- and Hebrew-alphabet-theme posters, cards and postcards, has entered this niche. It could have been done much better. There are 13 subject areas. Four are animated: Rosh Hashana, Birthday, Cursive Alef-Bet and Block-Letter Alef-Bet; the rest are static designs: Old New Year's Cards, Kumbot, Everyday Greetings, Children's Greetings, Children's Drawings, Greetings from Israel, Horoscope and This is Israel. A handful of the items are quite clever, but most of them are pedestrian.

Click on a subject area and you have a number of cards to choose from. In the two Alef-Bet sections there are 22 Hebrew letters each. Each very short animation plays on the structure of the letter and a word that begins with that letter. For example, *aviv* (spring), which starts with the letter *alef*, bears the message that "Spring is here and Passover is coming. Best wishes for the holiday." In the printed Hebrew alphabet section, there are not-very-funny sight gags: for *alef*, a character takes a bite out of the letter (for *ochel*, meaning food) and notes that the recipient is "cordially invited to a festive meal."

The program automatically takes you to the next stage to select a cover and borders and to write a personalized message. But if you just want to browse through all the cards, you have to - annoyingly - click back to the choices of designs each time.

The animated birthdays go from one to 13, and - as if some male chauvinist had chosen them - all are illustrated with the figure of a boy, except for 12, which is only for a bat mitzva. The one for 13 is only a bat mitzva, as if girls can never turn 13. The non-animated Happy Birthday section goes only from 11 to 20, but leaves out 12 and 13, which have already been dealt with - inadequately - by the animated birthday section. Greetings from Israel presents 15 hackneyed old Shema Tova cards, including one showing Herzl, Max Nordau and Prof. Mandelstam printed by the Hebrew Publishing Company in 1906. The Horoscope section presents all 12 astrological signs with primitive cartoon illustrations, while the Children's Drawings section including artwork that may charm Jewish grandparents who like that sort of thing. The Kumbot section presents formalized, static color illustrations of marriage contracts, while Greetings from Israel offers rather kitschy illustrations, such as an Israeli flag in the clouds, oranges or a photo of the Cardo in the Old City's Jewish Quarter.

The only passably unusual section is animated New Year greetings, which presents a dozen old Rosh Hashana cards going back to the early part of this century, all of them with Yiddish greetings. The company made an effort, bringing the characters (old bearded men, children and a modern-looking woman flying a solo plane) close to life for a few short seconds. Any of the personalized greetings can be printed out, dispatched via e-mail or saved on a disk.

All in all, if you want to send Jewish, Zionist greetings and don't mind kitsch, this CD-ROM is for you. But anyone expecting an all-encompassing Hallmark-like collection with large segments of animation and a lot of imagination will probably be disappointed.

A community is judged by how it deals with its old - from Coming of Age by Simone de Beauvoir

L.R. spent 10 years looking after her mother, who had Alzheimer's disease. "She was 88 when she moved into our house. I have a demanding, full-time job and a family. I had to take off work - when the caregiver didn't turn up, for example, or when my mother suddenly needed hospitalization. "You just try to get through each day as it comes. Believe me, it isn't easy."

People are living a lot longer than they used to, but sadly that doesn't always mean they're living well. Though by 2025 it is predicted that men will be, on average, surviving to past their mid-70s and women into their 80s, many may linger on for years with chronic conditions.

Who is going to look after them, particularly when there is no spouse or partner to do so? The answer: the world over is women - usually daughters like L.R. or daughters-in-law. And the burden can be formidable.

The people who care for the aged and needy, often over a period of years, was the subject of a recent conference at Bar-Ilan University. It was the first in a series which will be looking at issues related to the aging process. "Two-thirds of Israel's caregivers are women," says Jenny Brodsky, who heads the research program on aging at the Brookdale Institute of Gerontology and Human Development. And, she adds, the pressures on the caregivers are immense. They can spend up to 45 hours a week - that's over six hours a day - looking after an ailing individual.

In practical terms that means spending the day at work, rushing home to take care of children, then rushing out again to tend to their "patient."

Not surprisingly, some women cannot manage this juggling act, and 20 percent of women who do both eventually give up their jobs.

"The question of who takes care of the caregivers ought to be on the government's agenda," says Brodsky. "We've discovered that, because of their responsibilities, these people are losing three working days a month. That's a whole month's salary lost on the economy must be immense," Brodsky concludes. "It should be researched here."

Other Western countries are beginning to recognize the loss to the economy as a result of workers struggling with this dual role and are changing their laws to help them.

In some countries experts have concluded that the elderly are

best cared for at home among their extended families.

"In Holland, they're actually closing down old-age homes!" exclaims Leah Wolkov, a social worker and family therapist. "People are looked after at home, with financial and other help provided. The authorities have realized that, in the end, it's less of a burden to the state."

IS THAT likely to happen here? Although the experts agree it would be the best solution, seemingly it's a long way off.

On the government's welfare support law, passed several years ago, allows for up to 16 hours help per week from the state. That isn't direct financial help, but hot meals, cleaners, someone to come in and give a hand with the ailing family member.

"It's a pretty progressive law in world terms," says David Glanz, deputy director of the Brookdale Program in Applied Gerontology at Bar Ilan University. "When the

law was passed," he notes, "it was thought that about 20,000 people would be eligible. In fact, the number's more like 70,000."

Glanz believes that even more needs to be done. He and others in the field would like to see the government budgeting more money - and if necessary, passing additional laws - channeling more help to those who need the care, and more to those supplying it.

Glanz continues emphatically: "The government and the politicians need to understand that saying the elderly person's family will take care of him or her isn't like waving a magic wand. Family caregivers - especially women - need a range of services to help them cope with the added responsibility of looking after elderly parents or relatives."

"The absence of policy in this area," Glanz notes, "is itself a social policy working to the detriment of the givers and receivers of care, and to the detriment of society as a whole."

Ben Zion Kerem, deputy director of services for the elderly at the Ministry of Social Affairs, defends the assistance provided to the elderly and their caregivers, pointing out that there are 150 day-care centers for the elderly, serving 10,000 people. "We also help out with nursing care and other services," he adds. Kerem admits, though, that more can be done, and he recognizes that the elderly population's needs are growing.

"I'd be very happy if we could help the caregivers more," he says. "But it's all a function of the budget."

Prof. Mark Clarfield, chief of the geriatric division at the Ministry of Health, agrees that everything possible should be done to help the "sandwich generation" - those with both children and elderly parents - and adds that the state should be encouraging people to keep family members at home with them rather than sending them to institutions.

But, he cautions, "you can overwhelm a family by telling them 'You're responsible.' There is a limit to what people can do."

THE ISSUE of who will care for the caregivers is assuming more urgency as fertility rates worldwide fall.

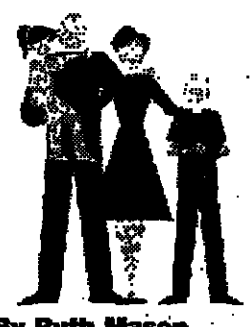
Over the last 17 years the world's total fertility rate has fallen from 4.1 children per couple to 2.9 children. In many developing countries the fertility rate is near or below the population replacement level of 2.1.

In other words, globally speaking, people are reproducing only enough to replace themselves.

Declining fertility rates mean there are fewer children to care for aging parents. And where there are no children, there must be some provision by the state.

"Look - we're all going to grow old some day," says the Brookdale Institute's Brodsky matter-of-factly. "We should be looking at this problem now."

Preparing for the 'empty nest'



By Ruth Mason

In this week's column, a mother shares her conflicting feelings about having children who are becoming adults and about what this means for her role as a mother. A family therapist responds below but we would also like to invite your response. If you have experiences or insights into this common situation, or have reached conclusions that might help this mother, please send them to the "Parenting" column, c/o The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000, or e-mail ruthmason@compuserve.com.

This is a time of great change for me. My children are 14, 17 and 21. Not that long ago, I was always interacting or playing with or talking to kids. Now they're on their way out. I feel like I'm re-writing the mothering book. Sometimes when I come home from work at 5:30 and there's no one home, I waver between thinking, "This is wonderful - I could go lie down," and "Gee, I wish my daughter would come home."

Recently I noticed that I'm the shortest person in the family now. I've asked myself why I should still be serving the other family members. So I stopped. But they feel I should still be serving them.

Birds kick their young out of the nest when they're grown. I was raised in the US, where you were expected to be out of the house at 18. It's not like that here and I feel a cultural conflict.

Should I keep making and serving dinner to everyone? Should I iron my son's uniform when he comes home from the army? On

the one hand, I want him to be independent. On the other hand, I feel: "Poor, guy, he's a soldier and I should do whatever I can."

Judy Katz-Charny, individual and family therapist, responds:

You are going through a stage of life that is challenging to everyone, but especially to mothers. Despite the rise of feminism and the high number of working mothers, moms are still usually the ones involved with all aspects of child care, from driving kids to ballet lessons to making doctors' appointments to making sure your child has the appropriate present for tomorrow's birthday party. It is usually the mother's calendar that is filled with children's appointments, parties and school meetings, the mother who prepares the food and buys the clothes and does the most of the myriad other things that child-rearing entails. When you're a mother, your life is filled with the big responsibilities as well as the small details of raising a family.

Then, one day you suddenly find that a baby-sitter is no longer necessary when you want to go out at night. Or you find that the house is empty when you come home. It's natural and predictable to have mixed feelings about this. On the one hand, there is a sense of relief: things are easier now, there's less work. On the other hand, you need to re-organize - to expect that you will need to invest a certain amount of time and energy to reorient yourself to these changes. It won't happen automatically.

I think of the time when the children become adults and/or leave home as a kind of early semi-retirement for women. Many women are not prepared for this. It can be as upsetting as involuntary early retirement is for most men.

A mother faces two challenges at this time of life: The first is what to do with the extra "room" in her life. Here, my advice would be to take a look at that list of things you always wanted to do but didn't have time for: take that art class, or Talmud lesson, or those nature hikes; finish writing

that poem you began five years ago. It would also be helpful to speak to other mothers in your position to see how they coped with the same situation.

The second challenge involves the marriage. At this time of life, the marital unit is also challenged because the mother may be looking to it for more closeness and companionship than previously. She may turn to her husband to fill the vacuum she feels. If the marriage is shaky, it could become even more so because of extra demands that are being put on it. In a healthy relationship, this period can allow the couple to refocus on one another. Many couples report that their lives as couples become far more satisfying.

Americans living in Israel face an additional cultural conflict. Israel is much more oriented toward catering to children, especially those who are serving in the IDF. The cultural expectation here is very much that the mother will iron the uniforms. In my family, the kids pitched in for each other when I wasn't up for ironing. I think they felt that I was an American and didn't know that's what I was supposed to do - so they did it for each other.

There are other differences here as well. The concept of parents buying an apartment for their children is not as wide-spread in the US. In general, giving is a lot more generous here and there is a stronger sense of family. As opposed to American culture, in Israel family comes before a lot of individual satisfaction. For example, here, teens and young adults will usually drop everything when cousins or other relatives come to visit from abroad. But those same cousins will usually continue with their routines when their Israeli relatives come to visit them.

As an American in Israel, perhaps you can benefit from the best of both worlds: You can try to strike a balance between encouraging independence and adopting the positive family values from this culture without becoming a slave to them.

Remember that giving is a two-

way street. Perhaps you need to call a family meeting and tell your husband and children how you feel.

But first, get your husband's backing - or at least make sure he won't sabotage you. If he expects you to keep on doing the same jobs for them, you'll have a harder time enlisting cooperation for change. Your family is changing and new rules need to be established. You all need to work together to redefining jobs, responsibilities and privileges. Perhaps you can take

advantage of the cooperative spirit in Israel by establishing a *toranot* (rota), a concept very familiar to any child growing up here. Everyone can take a turn preparing dinner and cleaning up once a week. The older the children, the more they can contribute to the family. If they haven't had chores and responsibilities in the past, it might be harder to get this started. But it's never too late. And it will only help them in their future lives.

THE JERUSALEM POST TOY FUND

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Photo: Gideon Dahan/Granger

Gardener's Corner

Though they are epiphytic plants, Schlumbergera are, nevertheless, bona-fide members of the cactus family (*Cactaceae*), because they have areoles. As we mentioned last week, areoles or spine tufts are a unique feature to

MEASUREMENTS UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.

a position in the house or garden that is free from evening lighting. During the day keep your plants in a light, but not sunny position. Outside, a place in semi-shade is best from April until early November. Unlike other cacti,

The Christmas cactus lost its spikes because it has no predators in the wild.

Watering. Use rainwater if you can, but if you have to use tap water make sure it is not stone-cold, otherwise it could give your plant a nasty "chill" from which it may take weeks to recover. The trauma of cold water will result in little or no growth at all. Overwatering during the summer rest period is likely to rot the roots.

Propagation. Take cuttings at the joints during the summer. Just twist them off and let the cutting surface heal for a few days in a shady place. After the cut surface has dried a little, place them in a mixture of equal parts peat moss and fine sand. If you are unable to obtain fine potting sand, perlite will be just as good. Keep the cuttings in a light, sheltered spot until they root. Rooting takes approxi-

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, P.O.B. 3943, Jerusalem 91039, or David Brauner, e-mail: morris@mail.biu.ac.il (writing "for David" in the subject line).

If you cannot move your *Schlumbergera* to a place where no artificial light falls on it, then as soon as the sun sets cover your plant with a large paper bag or cardboard box, but remember to remove the cover at dawn.



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But try this. Using the exact same tone and inflection and, of course, body language, say: "Do you want a pint of stout?" or "Shall we go and catch a trout?" or

Some dogs respond to certain sentences. For instance, a dog that loves to accompany its human companion in the car will seem to understand when you say "I'm going to go -" This is usually fol-

I once had a dog that would remain in its basket in the morning

Though animals have no capacity for true speech they have a wide variety of non-verbal communication skills. Just as an owner who really observes his or her dog knows what it wants, so a dog usually knows what its human companion wants. The method of communication may be non-verbal, but it is certainly not inferior. It's just different.

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Wednesday,
March 4, 1998

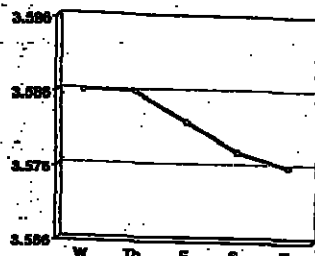
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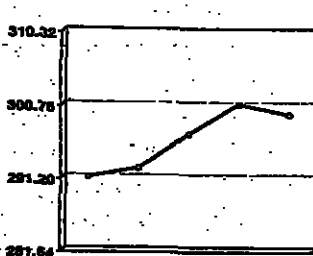
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in brief

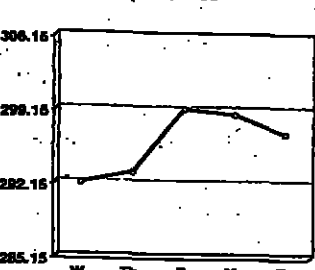
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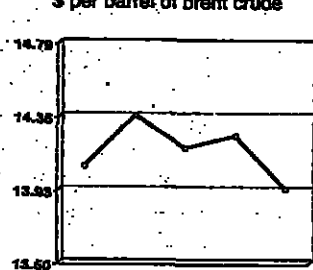
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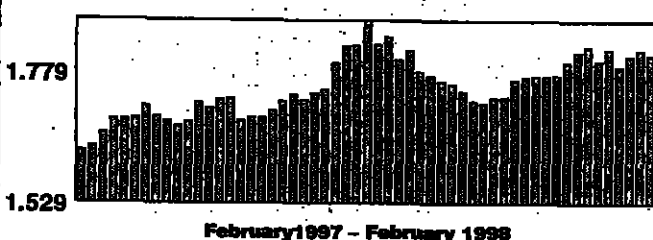
GOLD
\$ per ounce



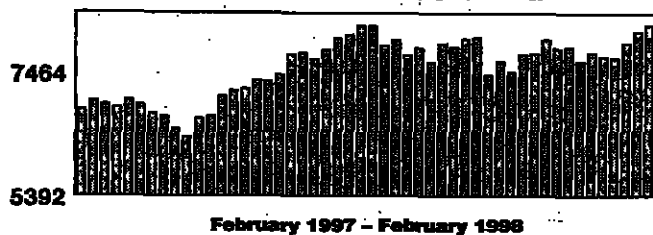
OIL
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Teva sells Paca to Shemen for \$14.5m.

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries said yesterday it has reached an agreement to sell its wholly owned subsidiary, Paca Industries, to Shemen Industries for \$14.5 million. The sale of the yeast producer will allow Teva to report a pre-tax \$10m. capital gain. Under the terms of the agreement, Teva would continue to hold the factory's land in Bat Yam, its liabilities and the subsidiary's holdings in Teva shares. Paca reported sales of \$13m. for 1997. The move is in line with Teva's strategic plan to concentrate on its core business. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

Goldman's senior executive joins IDB board

IDB Holding Corporation yesterday announced that Robert Hurst, vice chairman of the Goldman Sachs Group, will join its board of directors. The appointment follows the completion last week of the sale of 9.5 percent of IDB to the New York investment house for NIS 282 million. Hurst, who joined Goldman Sachs 24 years ago, has served as head of investment banking since 1990. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

Free-trade accord with Poland to boost trade '98

Trade with Poland is expected to rise 50 percent this year with the recent implementation of a free-trade accord, according to the Israel-Poland Chamber of Commerce. Zvi Plada, chairman of the chamber, said the agreement canceled discrimination against Israeli products compared with EU products. *Nina Gilbert*

Lufthansa looking to work with El Al

By HAIM SHAPIRO

A senior Lufthansa official is to meet with El Al Director-General Yoel Feldschuh today for what the German airline executive said he hopes will be a new era of cooperation between the two airlines. Josef Bogdanski, Lufthansa vice president for sales and services to Southeast Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Pakistan, acknowledged yesterday that during the past 25 years there had been difficulties between the two airlines. Bogdanski, who had been the Israel manager prior to his meteoric rise in the airline, said he well remembers bitter fights over fare surcharges by Airtour, a travel agents conglomerate linked to El Al.

"I have sources that inform me that there is a new El Al management, willing to go new ways," Bogdanski told reporters. He said that everything is open to negotiation, including code-sharing, the system whereby two airlines list the same flight in both their schedules, an arrangement which enables passengers to take advantage of fare reductions and

to enjoy better connections for ongoing flights. Bogdanski stressed that cooperation, rather than price wars, is the key to good business.

While in Israel, Bogdanski is to oversee a concentration of the Lufthansa staff in one Tel Aviv office. He said it would still have special desks dealing with Jerusalem and Haifa, but that electronic tools make it possible to locate the entire staff in one office.

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• Packaged Waste Water Treatment Plant
• Inductively Coupled Plasma
All interested parties are invited to receive the terms of reference from the PCG office, 16 Salah Ed-din St., East Jerusalem. Tel. 02-628-1822. Fax 02-627-4335

Deadline for the submission of offers: March 21, 1998

Truck traffic with Jordan might halt due to security funding dispute

By NINA GILBERT

Starting Sunday, the Customs and VAT Authority will stop paying for security escorts for convoys of Jordanian trucks traveling to and from Haifa Port, the authority announced yesterday.

The Federation of Chambers of Commerce said in response that if the situation is not resolved, the transit of goods from Haifa to Jordan will stop.

"The customs cannot continue to

finance this service due to budgetary constraints," said authority spokeswoman Idit Lev-Zerahia. "If funds can't be found there will not be convoys, which can't go without security."

Mandy Barak, of the federation's international department, said transit to Jordan via Haifa is "already subject to difficulties."

According to a 1978 Jordanian law, containers from overseas can only come through Akaba Port, otherwise they are subject to a

\$1,000 fine, he said. "As a result, containers bound for Jordan arriving at Haifa Port must be repacked onto trucks," he said. "This makes it uneconomical to ship via Haifa and increases shipping costs to Jordan."

Most goods sent via Haifa are commodities, which are not packaged and can be poured from the container onto trucks, he noted.

Customs in Jordan are high, as Jordan is not a GATT signatory, he added.

At the same time, he said, business relations with Jordan are developing well, with businessmen coming and going between both countries. Jordan welcomes the jobs being created there via joint ventures with Israel, he said.

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky is to travel to Amman next week for talks with his Jordanian counterpart, Hani Mulki, on expanding and improving the 1996 trade agreement.

Sharansky was to have met with

Mulki last week, but the visit was canceled due to the tensions with Iraq.

In 1997, exports to Jordan jumped 117 percent to \$20 million. Imports from Jordan were \$12.6m., an increase of 148%. Exports to Jordan are mainly food products and agricultural produce, chemicals, metals, machines and equipment. Imports are mostly in food and agriculture, chemicals, paper products, and machines and equipment.



Promises for help

Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim (left) greets Japan's Vice Finance Minister for International Affairs Eisuke Sakakibara in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Sakakibara promised that Japan would fulfill its responsibilities in helping Asian economies. *(Reuters)*

Report: Neshet uses contacts to increase strength

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Government connections help Neshet Israel Cement Enterprises maintain its monopoly, as the only local cement supplier, according to a report published yesterday by the Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies.

Neshet is a subsidiary of Mashav Initiating and Development, which is jointly owned by the country's largest conglomerates, Koor Industries and Cial Israel. The two companies announced last week that Cial would become the sole owner of Mashav as part of a larger deal in which Cial will transfer its holdings in ECI Telecom to Koor.

Neshet produces 100 percent of Israeli cement and more than 90% of the cement sold in both Israel

and the Palestinian Authority. The report claims that the government's attempt to prevent Palestinians from manufacturing and importing building materials led to a situation in which high prices in Israel subsidize sales to the PA at prices that verge on losses.

The fact that cement accounts for some 5% of the construction input in housing and municipal infrastructure allowed Neshet to generate profits which are estimated at 12% of net turnover. In addition, the company earns money through its sibling company, Touval Hovalot, which dominates the cement haulage systems and generates annual profits of NIS 40m.

Amir Etzioni, the report's author, argues that company ties with the government have resulted in "ram-

ified import protection, red tape and extraordinary government aid." In addition, "Neshet has backed these with various strong-arm tactics that have defeated every attempt to open up the market and, especially, to build cement unloading facilities at the ports."

Etzioni also accuses Neshet of threatening customers who considered buying cement from small importers who have tried to penetrate the market. He said that "customer who misbehave subsequently encounter mishaps and

delays on Neshet's part."

According to the report, an average wage earner who buys a house, worth \$400,000, has to work for a month-and-a-half to pay the difference between the price of cement in Israel and in surrounding countries like Jordan, Egypt, Turkey or Cyprus. The prices paid in the local market of \$70-\$75 per ton are much higher than the \$40-\$60 per ton paid in neighboring states. This cost Israelis \$80-\$140m. in 1996, according to the report.

IAI clinches deal in Singapore

By ABIEH O'SULLIVAN

Singapore's military announced yesterday that it has purchased an undisclosed number of Searcher IIs, Israel Aircraft Industries' most advanced unmanned aerial surveillance plane. The deal was reportedly worked out during the Asian Aerospace 98 exhibition currently underway in Singapore.

According to Singapore's Ministry of Defense, the Searcher II will replace the aging Scout, also built by IAI. In a statement, the ministry said the unmanned air vehicle (UAV) would be used for battlefield training and reconnaissance. Singapore's second minister for defense, Rear Adm. Teo Chee Hean, said yesterday that the Searcher was chosen because of its payload capabilities.

Singapore did not disclose the purchase price, nor the number of planes it had ordered. It also refused to confirm that the Searcher II was purchased from an Israeli company.

Israel Aircraft Industries, whose MALAT Division produces the Searcher II, has debuted the craft at the aerospace show being held near Changi Air Base.

A spokeswoman for IAI refused to confirm or deny the announcement in Singapore and declined to give any details.

The upgraded Searcher II is a larger version of the successful Searcher I and has an improved payload carrying capability and is actually capable of carrying multiple payloads.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION

To receive recorded information by phone (or fax) by voice mail, call:
1) Telex 03-6388883, for information on building tenders
2) Telex 03-6389363, for information on results of tenders
3) Telex 03-6388882, for information on documents necessary for various applications (leasing agricultural land for short periods, building additions, transferring rights, private building, etc.)

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION
NORTHERN REGION

MINISTRY OF TOURISM

EHUD TAYAR MANAGEMENT
AND ENGINEERING LTD.

Leases Offered on Plots for the Construction of Hotels, Leisure Facilities and Holiday Apartments (5 plots) on the Northern Coast of Tiberias
Tender No. Tendi Feb 4/98

The Israel Lands Administration invites bids from those interested in signing a 3 year development agreement (6 year agreement for plot no. 26), after which those concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for land, the details of which at the time of publication are as follows:

Block no.	Parcel no.	Plot no.	Area in sq.m. (approx.)	Building area, (inc. service areas)	Dev. costs in NIS	Amount of guarantee in NIS according to building index 12/97
15043	44	9	9,132	21,004	3,668,259	180,000
15046	39, 40, 42, 43	10				
15046	38 - 41	10	14,528	27,603	5,132,635	250,000
15725	13, 18 - 25	25	44,889	148,133	22,375,928	1,000,000
15048	30, 31, 37 - 41	34	46,528	27,577	9,647,466	450,000
15043	40, 44	28	5,831	15,536	1,965,204	850,000
15046	39, 40, 43, 29	28	1,659			

Participation in the tender to build hotels is restricted to developers approved by the Ministry of Tourism. Building rights are as stated in building plan 7505/gimmel.

The plan was approved by the Northern Region's Regional Planning and Building Committee on May 1, 1996. A copy of the decision is attached as Appendix Tet of the tender conditions.

Approval of building plan 7505/gimmel by the Interior Minister is still pending.

Plot no. 9 is intended for the construction of a hotel.

Plot no. 10 is intended for the construction of a hotel.

Plot no. 25 is intended for the construction of high-rise hotel.

Plot no. 34 is intended for the construction of leisure facilities (e.g. a holiday village or sports or entertainment facility).

The Israel Lands Administration will not object to changes to the building plans provided that they comply with the duration of the development agreement subject to paying the difference in the value of the land according to the Administration's standard procedures.

Plot no. 58 is intended for the construction of housing, vacation apartments or an apartment-hotel.

DEVELOPMENT COSTS:

In addition to the amount paid for the land:

a. The successful bidder will pay the development costs listed above to the Israel Lands Administration, through Ehud Tayar Management and Engineering Ltd. (hereinafter, "the company"). These costs will be linked to the building index for December 1997 (published on January 15, 1998). The amount due will be calculated according to the last known index figure at the time payment is made, as explained in the agreement regarding construction of infrastructure (Appendix Zayin of the tender documents).

b. The successful bidder will pay construction surcharges and communications surcharges for sewage treatment and expanding the water pumping capacity to the Tiberias Municipality, for which it should obtain written confirmation, as detailed in Appendix Het of the tender documents.

The Israel Lands Administration reserves the right to accept any bid or to reject all bids including the highest.

Tender booklets are available at the Israel Lands Administration, Government Compound, Upper Nazareth, Tel. 06-6558211, during regular working hours, on submission of a receipt from the Post Bank for NIS 250 per booklet (includes VAT, cash only), for payment into Israel Lands Administration account 0-24180-0.

A bank check or bank guarantee for the amount stated in the table above should be attached to each bid as a deposit.

The last date for submitting requests to the Ministry of Tourism is March 26, 1998. The last date for submitting bids is April 9, 1998 at 12 noon. A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

This announcement is for the purpose of general knowledge only. It does not obligate the Israel Lands Administration in any way, either in terms of contents or dates. The binding terms are those contained in the tender documents and their appendices.

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THE BUSINESS SCENE

By GREER FAY CASHMAN



Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav (center front) visited the Galilee to check out preparations for the end of the millennium. Katsav said that his ministry would give high priority to the establishment of rural hospitality facilities in settlements close to the border. Bicycling is one of the popular activities among visitors to the Galilee and despite the fact that he was wearing a suit and tie, Katsav proved that he was no slouch in the saddle. Some of his aides got into the act as well.

Clal Industries General Manager Shaul Ben-Rimon, Tuva General Manager Arik Reichman, and Yossi Rosen, chairman of the board of Sunfrost, signed an agreement whereby 29 percent of the shares in Sunfrost held by Clal Industries were acquired by Tuva. The purchase price was \$2.8 million. The acquisition gave Tuva controlling interest in Sunfrost, whose products it has been marketing since March 1.

David Yerushalmi, 46, has been appointed general manager of Discount Leasing, a fully owned subsidiary of Bank Discount. Yerushalmi, who has degrees in economics and business management from Tel Aviv University, began his banking career with Discount 21 years ago and has held a series of senior positions.

Mark Davidson and Baruch Dotan have been appointed joint managers of O.B.S., which provides back-up services for personal computers.

Amnon Dufan, chairman, and general manager of Ready-Mix, has been elected chairman of the building supplies division of the Israel Manufacturers Association.

After being co-opted to the board of the Atudot Pension

Fund, Micha Hertz was elected chairman of its investments committee. Until recently, Hertz served as chairman of the Kibbutz Industries Association.

Some of the Hungarian expatriates invited by Prime Minister Gyula Horn to discuss Hungary's integration into the European Community were observant Jews. Horn, not wanting them to go hungry, arranged for kosher food to be brought into Parliament House. Israeli participants included Moshe Zambor, former general manager of Bank Leumi; David Kraus, former Israel ambassador to Hungary; Prof. Shlomo Stern, Bikur Holim hospital cardiologist; and Natzi chairman Joseph Weiss, who also serves as honorary Hungarian consul in Jerusalem.

Ruti Ofek, 47, has been appointed curator of the Tefen Development Museum. She was previously the coordinator of the museum's educational projects.

Aliza Amir-Zohar has been elected president of the Tel-Hai Academic College. She succeeds Prof. Gabi Warburg. Prior to attaining her new position, Amir-Zohar was the manager of the college, and before that served as the secretary of the National Kibbutz Movement. A member of Kibbutz Baran in the Galilee, she is a philosophy graduate of Tel Aviv University. Her job as college manager has been filled by Amos Levin, who is currently completing his master's degree on the aging process in fruit.

Doron Schmidt, 39, has been named vice president for marketing at ISDN.NET. A Tel Aviv University alumnus, Schmidt graduated in systems analysis, biology and business management.

Gates' window to trouble

By RAJIV CHANDRASEKHARAN

If the US Justice Department prevails in a legal battle to block Microsoft's ability to add new features to its Windows software, the company "will be replaced" as a technology industry leader, said company chairman Bill Gates this week.

During a wide-ranging interview, a feisty Gates railed against government antitrust investigations of his company, scoffed at rivals' charges of anti-competitive behavior and bristled at the mention of the word "monopoly."

Heading to Capitol Hill yesterday to testify at a Senate hearing into his company's business practices, Gates bluntly vowed to continue enhancing Windows, despite the Justice Department's legal argument that in doing so he's blocking competition.

"It's hard to say that you're going to compromise on your ability to innovate in Windows," Gates said during the interview with *Washington Post* editors and reporters.

"If I can't put Internet support in Windows, then Windows will fail. If I can't put speech recognition into Windows, Windows will fail. You know, our path is to make Windows better," he said. "If we can't innovate in our products," he added, "then you know we will be replaced."

During Monday's interview, Gates displayed the brash self-confidence and intellectual drive that have made him perhaps the country's most prominent and successful businessman.

Far from the usual cautious demeanor of business leaders visiting Washington, he was roaring with indignation and disdain for those who question his business practices. He dismissed one question as "unfair," another as "dishonest."

"Come on!" he said impatiently to one questioner. "Give me a break!" he said a few moments later to another.

Despite the legal assault on his company, Gates expressed confidence that he'll ultimately win. "The one thing that counts is," he said, "are we allowed to innovate our products? That's it. And I'm confident that our right to innovate our products will be preserved."

Gates was scheduled to testify yesterday before the Senate Judiciary Committee, which planned to grill him about Microsoft's efforts to extend its dominance beyond the personal computer desktop to the Internet, interactive television, hand-held computers and powerful back-office machines. Rivals charge that those efforts, particularly Microsoft's decision to include

On his way to this week's Senate hearing, a fiery Bill Gates stood behind Microsoft's right to innovate



Microsoft's Gates: "If I can't put Internet support in Windows, then Windows will fail." (AP)

Internet-browsing software in Windows, is squelching competition in the computer industry.

But Gates maintains that he's only doing what consumers want.

"We've gone out and asked software developers, and it's overwhelming... that they want the Internet to be in the operating system," said Gates, his hands fluttering to emphasize his point. "And so this is serving customers, both the developers and the end users. It's like saying, you know, should a radio be in a car? When you buy a car, why does it have tires on?"

For Microsoft, Tuesday's hearing is the latest in a series of high-profile inquiries into the company's business practices. The Justice Department, 11 state attorneys general, the European Commission and consumer advocates also are investigating the software giant. Justice filed a lawsuit last year over Microsoft's marketing tactics in the Internet-browsing market and is collecting

evidence that could lead to a broader case.

Despite all the legal scrutiny, Gates—celebrated and denounced as the world's richest man, relentless competitor, boy genius—showed no signs Monday of toning down his trademark brashness, despite a recent image-softening campaign highlighting his charitable contributions. He rejected any suggestion that his power and wealth—and defiant legal strategy—have made him or Microsoft unpopular.

Microsoft has an "incredibly positive" image, he said. "I mean, give me a break. People buy our products because they like the products.... We are an incredibly popular company because of the work that we've done."

Gates charged that Tuesday's Senate hearing, chaired by Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, and billed as an inquiry into issues of competition in the software industry, is "certainly coupled" with the Justice Department's investigation. "Sen-

Hatch and members of this committee have never commented on or shown any interest in things related to Microsoft" before the Justice lawsuit, he said, adding that the committee has "put up a flag that says, 'We're the new Microsoft complaint bureau.'" Gates also bristled when asked about the Justice Department's lawsuit and continuing investigation.

The department's suit charges that Microsoft violated a 1995 consent decree with the government by requiring PC makers to distribute Microsoft's Internet browser as a condition of licensing Windows 95.

Gates was miffed that the department's antitrust chief, Joel E. Klein, met recently with a group of Microsoft's competitors, specifically International Business Machines Corp., Netscape Communications Corp., Oracle Corp. and Sun Microsystems Inc. "Joel Klein goes out and gets them together and they sit and talk about how they're going to coordinate their competition with

us," Gates said.

Klein, in an interview Monday night, denied that he has had such conversations with Microsoft rivals. "There is absolutely no basis for the charge," he said.

Gates suggested that the department brought the consent decree lawsuit to justify its long-running investigation of Microsoft. "If a policeman follows you for a thousand miles... you might decide he needs to write you a ticket at some point," he said. "In other words, he kind of looks a little stupid."

He was sardonic at another point in explaining why there have been so many inquiries into Microsoft's business tactics. "I mean, if you work for the government," he said, "which would you rather investigate: the bread industry or the software industry?"

Gates founded Microsoft with high school buddy Paul Allen in 1975, building it into the world's largest software company. In the fiscal year that ends in June, Microsoft is expected to post more than \$4 billion in profit on \$14b. in sales, a jump of 23 percent from a year ago.

But in conversation, Gates refrains from trumpeting his success—or his \$40b. personal fortune. Instead, he says Microsoft must be watching for the next Bill Gates who could do to Microsoft what he did to one-time industry dominator IBM, swooping in when it failed to grasp the fundamental shift away from its mainframes to personal computers in the early 1980s.

"I started Microsoft with nothing. Nobody gave me anything," he said. "IBM at the time had more share and position than any company ever had, or will have, in the computer industry. And I built a product, a product I believed in, a great product."

But rivals accuse Microsoft of behaving in a way IBM didn't. When Microsoft sees a technology it likes—memory management, printer-communication tools and, lately, Internet browsing—it adds it into Windows. In doing so, Microsoft doesn't raise the price of Windows, thus making it tough, if not impossible, for companies that develop stand-alone products to sell them separately, critics say.

Gates argues that if a rival technology is better, users will shun the Windows version and pay a few extra dollars for the add-on product. If that's what a consumer chooses, making the switch is easy, Gates maintains.

Gates stressed that he believes Microsoft's apparent dominance is ephemeral, requiring the company to constantly upgrade its products and expand its reach. "All of these products die very quickly," he said, "in less than the term of a senator." (Washington Post)

MUTUAL FUNDS

Fund's name	unit cost	redemption price	monthly yield (%)	NIS assets 1998 (%)
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FLEXIBLE				
Abot	229.81	226.82	+1.17	+2.82
Acad Flexible	103.99	102.70	+1.50	+2.16
Alkarm Flexible	210.09	207.20	+1.40	+0.48
Amey Flexible	501.07	501.07	+2.50	+1.14
Amey Flexible	103.39	103.23	+1.02	—
Amey Flexible	750.61	733.35	+2.08	+1.35
Amey Flexible	192.96	182.28	+2.51	+4.57
Amey Flexible	100.48	98.48	+1.83	+4.88
Amey Flexible	193.17	192.40	+1.26	+1.21
Amey Flexible	220.12	215.55	+3.73	+4.59
Amey Flexible	118.25	116.82	+2.18	+1.78
Amey Flexible	270.94	267.99	+1.12	+1.65
Amey Flexible	181.35	177.65	+1.86	+0.18
Amey Flexible	341.99	339.85	+1.13	+1.63
Amey Flexible	181.35	177.65	+1.86	+0.18
Amey Flexible	409.21	404.84	+1.85	+2.41
Amey Flexible	157.99	157.14	+1.27	+1.11
Amey Flexible	267.74	265.81	+2.46	+3.29
Amey Flexible	265.34	265.63	+1.95	+2.23
Amey Flexible	103.54	103.02	+0.98	+1.18
Amey Flexible	184.76	183.89	+2.15	+2.06
Amey Flexible	133.21	133.21	+0.18	+2.10
Amey Flexible	156.19	156.19	+2.23	+0.26
Amey Flexible	257.53	257.53	+1.35	+1.35
Amey Flexible	330.43	328.73	+1.85	+1.73
Amey Flexible	150.14	149.14	+2.68	+1.25
Amey Flexible	749.43	736.49	+1.55	+0.48
Amey Flexible	161.53	161.53	+2.30	+0.80
Amey Flexible	154.80	151.97	+3.18	+10.57
Amey Flexible	98.49	98.49	+1.97	+4.84
Amey Flexible	144.95	142.88	+1.88	+7.91
Amey Flexible	110.27	108.56	+3.16	+7.24
Amey Flexible	159.84	159.84	+2.48	+2.33
Amey Flexible	100.86	98.74	+2.69	+2.26
Amey Flexible	134.59	134.59	+0.14	+2.07
Amey Flexible	150.14	150.14	+1.05	+1.13
Amey Flexible	121.30	120.83	+2.42	+1.31
Amey Flexible	87.45	86.22	+1.14	+2.34
Amey Flexible	186.99	185.49	+1.52	+2.34
Amey Flexible	100.86	98.82	+2.51	+0.52
Amey Flexible	208.01	208.01	+3.51	+3.57
Amey Flexible	888.03	885.80	+2.41	+0.60
Amey Flexible	359.82	356.74	+2.11	+0.91
Amey Flexible	800.82	798.98	+2.31	+2.27
Amey Flexible	172.07	170.31	+0.30	+1.14
Amey Flexible	228.53	225.48	+3.80	+3.85
Amey Flexible	187.84	184.14	+2.30	+1.21
Amey Flexible	100.42	99.39	+3.12	+0.45
Amey Flexible	272.53	268.04	+3.17	+3.21
Amey Flexible	123.28	122.89	+0.98	+2.55
Amey Flexible	102.17	101.96	+2.11	+2.20
Amey Flexible	315.40	308.54	+2.10	+2.42
Amey Flexible	98.81	98.89	+1.35	+1.39
Amey Flexible	1448.86	1438.20	+3.35	+2.00

SHARES				
Adi Peken	118.29	118.29	+2.17	+1.11
Adi Peken	287.60	283.58	+1.87	+2.22
Adi Peken	144.95	142.88	+1.88	+7.91
Adi Peken	227.69	223.13	+3.47	+1.11
Adi Peken	332.45	326.63	+2.66	+0.96
Adi Peken	159.84	159.84	+2.48	+2.33
Adi Peken	1226.80	1198.64	+2.80	+3.13
Adi Peken	227.69	223.13	+3.47	+1.11
Adi Peken	104.16	103.69	+3.04	+0.03
Adi Peken	222.88	222.77	+2.48	+3.58
Adi Peken	108.45	106.16	+4.57	+3.52
Adi Peken	133.36	131.87	+3.14	+0.71
Adi Peken	119.82	117.12	+2.81	+1.76
Adi Peken	241.84	241.12	+2.81	+1.76
Adi Peken	106.44	106.40	+1.87	+2.19
Adi Peken	106.44	106.40	+1.87	+2.19
Adi Peken	530.81	526.74	+2.11	+1.00
Adi Peken	121.34	120.42	+1.40	+1.13
Adi Peken	126.56	127.60	+0.06	+0.24
Adi Peken	72.97	72.42	+1.71	+0.26
Adi Peken	364.83	362.00	+2.90	+1.45
Adi Peken	1552.18	1559.93	+1.50	+0.76
Adi Peken	112.86	112.86	+2.11	+1.11
Adi Peken	67.47	66.60	+1.82	+2.39
Adi Peken	—	—	—	2.9

Fund's name	unit cost	redemption price	monthly yield (%)	NIS assets 1998 (%)
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Enda Maor	214.30	212.87	+2.73	+1.41
Enda Shalhevet	188.09	188.09	+1.76	+2.52
Enda Shalhevet	164.58	163.25	+1.47	+1.86
Enda TA 100	188.09	188.09	+1.76	+2.52
Enda TA 100	207.46	204.82	+2.38	+1.81
Enda TA 100	109.92	106.56	+2.23	+4.48
Enda TA 100	124.76	121.55	+1.88	+1.23
Epulon Sharan	191.86	191.25	+2.89	+2.40
Erez Peken	345.52	339.34	+3.44	+2.91
Erez Peken	608.88	598.02	+2.99	+0.32
Evergreen High Tech				6.9
Evergreen Sharan	188.32	186.83	+2.88	+4.12
Evergreen Sharan	250.80	250.80	+2.88	+4.12
Excellence Sharan	300.80	297.37	+3.48	+4.18
Eyal Sharan	138.28	138.28	+2.88	+2.88
Eyal Sharan	113.57	113.57	+3.40	+0.72
Ham Peken	114.03	112.02	+4.12	+0.87
Ipud Carmel	107.99	107.29	+2.84	+1.01
Ipud Carmel	107.99	107.29	+2.84	+1.01
Ipud Sharan	150.01	149.02	+2.46	+1.64
Ipud Sharan	171.06	170.17	+2.67	+2.68
Israel Communication	115.19	115.19	+2.43	+2.43
Israel Dorek	306.31	303.55	+2.89	+2.42
Israel Finance	98.32	96.80	+3.05	+2.01
Israel Globe		96.49	+3.05	+2.01
Israel Mac	203.48	202.49	+2.74	+0.96
Israel Mac	147.96	147.96	+2.88	+2.88
Israel Nemezee	151.25	151.25	+4.02	+3.21
Israel Sharan	512.08	512.08	+2.03	+2.10
Israel Sharan	59.91	59.91	+2.48	+1.68
Israel Shesak	83.16	83.16	+2.55	+2.52
Israel TA 100	283.94	283.94	+2.56	+1.85
Israel America				124.4
Kohay Peken	171.54	171.54	+3.04	+3.04
Kohay Peken	127.35	127.35	+0.18	+2.51
Kor Sharan	77.58	77.58	+1.88	+1.37
Lahak Agnervit Plus	82.56	82.56	+4.02	+4.57
Lahak Agnervit Plus	59.91	59.91	+2.48	+1.68
Lahak Carmel	116.23	115.32	+4.40	+2.42
Lahak Hestral	326.98	321.78	+7.75	+4.41
Lahak Hestral	131.65	131.64	+3.71	+3.83
Lahak TA-Wall Street				15.0
Lahak TA-Wall Street	431.08	429.54	+2.73	+0.15
Lahak Yotzu	77.58	77.58	+1.88	+4.81
Lahak Yotzu	82.56	82.56	+4.02	+3.08
Lahak Yotzu	59.91	59.91	+2.48	+1.68
Lahak Yotzu	267.17	262.47	+2.59	+0.61
Melior Options	43.81	43.81	+3.98	+3.85
Melior Options	210.86	210.86	+2.19	+0.11
Melior Yotzu	114.95	113.76	+2.57	+3.77
Mercant Carmel Marv	66.75	66.75	+2.97	+5.9
Mercant Carmel Marv	95.75	95.75	+2.95	+2.04
Mercant TA 100	257.03	255.29	+2.77	+1.70
Mercant TA 100	101.28	101.28	+1.01	+1.01
Nechin Confidential	60.45	59.37	+3.06	+3.53
Nesuu Sharan	452.35	459.37	+2.13	+2.53
Nesuu Sharan	104.83	104.83	+3.33	+3.33
Omegas	124.54	124.54	+1.69	+2.25
Otzar Foreign Int. Par	14.24	14.24	+1.74	+2.0
Otzar Foreign Int. Par	104.83	104.83	+3.33	+3.33
Otzar Sharan	113.43	114.44	+2.47	+0.01
Palest	161.34	161.34	+2.94	+0.01
Palest	161.34	161.34	+2.94	+0.01
Palest 2000	97.08	96.56	+4.59	+5.86
Palest Biddach TA 100	100.82	100.04	+2.73	+2.26
Palest Biddach TA 100	130.48	130.48	+2.73	+2.26
Palest Mac	195.21	191.17	+2.90	+0.83
Palest Mac	136.54	136.54	+2.91	+2.91
Palest Mac	122.06	122.06	+2.91	+2.91
Palest Mac	122.06	122.06	+2.91	+2.91
Palest Mac	107.30	106.75	+2.95	+2.85
Palest Mac	65.49	65.14	+3.13	+2.97
Pitzit				32.3
Pitzit	85.57	84.25	+3.26	+1.13
Pisgot Gof	114.89	114.19	+1.44	+5.58
Pisgot Gof				94.0
Pisgot Gof				94.0
Pisgot Gof	201.91	198.25	+2.73	+2.77
Pisgot Mahat Lashalom	138.54	138.09	+1.64	+6.70
Pisgot Mahat Lashalom	80.23	80.23	+1.64	+6.70
Pisgot TA 100	385.89	383.76	+2.16	+0.93
Pisgot TA 100	101.28	101.28	+1.64	+1.64
Simcoar Sharan & Com.	80.33	78.32	+2.22	+2.51
Simcoar Sharan & Com.	114.40	112.38	+1.68	+1.17
Simcoar Sharan & Com.	146.42	146.42	+2.42	+2.42
Simcoar Sharan & Com.	150.01	150.01	+2.18	+4.44
Simcoar Sharan & Com.	47.61	47.61	+2.42	+2.42
Simcoar Sharan & Com.	358.89	358.89	+3.42	+3.48
Simcoar Sharan & Com.	96.86	95.67	+3.06	+2.38
Simcoar Sharan & Com.	74.41	74.41	+3.06	+2.38
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TASE declines on profit-taking

LAST	CHANGE
Tel Aviv	37.00
Tel Aviv 100	37.00
Tel Aviv 200	37.00
Tel Aviv 300	37.00
Tel Aviv 400	37.00
Tel Aviv 500	37.00
Tel Aviv 600	37.00
Tel Aviv 700	37.00
Tel Aviv 800	37.00
Tel Aviv 900	37.00
Tel Aviv 1000	37.00
Tel Aviv 1100	37.00
Tel Aviv 1200	37.00
Tel Aviv 1300	37.00
Tel Aviv 1400	37.00
Tel Aviv 1500	37.00
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Tel Aviv 1700	37.00
Tel Aviv 1800	37.00
Tel Aviv 1900	37.00
Tel Aviv 2000	37.00

LAST	CHANGE
Tel Aviv	37.00
Tel Aviv 100	37.00
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Tel Aviv 500	37.00
Tel Aviv 600	37.00
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Tel Aviv 1100	37.00
Tel Aviv 1200	37.00
Tel Aviv 1300	37.00
Tel Aviv 1400	37.00
Tel Aviv 1500	37.00
Tel Aviv 1600	37.00
Tel Aviv 1700	37.00
Tel Aviv 1800	37.00
Tel Aviv 1900	37.00
Tel Aviv 2000	37.00

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

LAST	CHANGE
Tel Aviv	37.00
Tel Aviv 100	37.00
Tel Aviv 200	37.00
Tel Aviv 300	37.00
Tel Aviv 400	37.00
Tel Aviv 500	37.00
Tel Aviv 600	37.00
Tel Aviv 700	37.00
Tel Aviv 800	37.00
Tel Aviv 900	37.00
Tel Aviv 1000	37.00
Tel Aviv 1100	37.00
Tel Aviv 1200	37.00
Tel Aviv 1300	37.00
Tel Aviv 1400	37.00
Tel Aviv 1500	37.00
Tel Aviv 1600	37.00
Tel Aviv 1700	37.00
Tel Aviv 1800	37.00
Tel Aviv 1900	37.00
Tel Aviv 2000	37.00

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

LAST	CHANGE
Tel Aviv	37.00
Tel Aviv 100	37.00
Tel Aviv 200	37.00
Tel Aviv 300	37.00
Tel Aviv 400	37.00
Tel Aviv 500	37.00
Tel Aviv 600	37.00
Tel Aviv 700	37.00
Tel Aviv 800	37.00
Tel Aviv 900	37.00
Tel Aviv 1000	37.00
Tel Aviv 1100	37.00
Tel Aviv 1200	37.00
Tel Aviv 1300	37.00
Tel Aviv 1400	37.00
Tel Aviv 1500	37.00
Tel Aviv 1600	37.00
Tel Aviv 1700	37.00
Tel Aviv 1800	37.00
Tel Aviv 1900	37.00
Tel Aviv 2000	37.00

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

LAST	CHANGE
Tel Aviv	37.00
Tel Aviv 100	37.00
Tel Aviv 200	37.00
Tel Aviv 300	37.00
Tel Aviv 400	37.00
Tel Aviv 500	37.00
Tel Aviv 600	37.00
Tel Aviv 700	37.00
Tel Aviv 800	37.00
Tel Aviv 900	37.00
Tel Aviv 1000	37.00
Tel Aviv 1100	37.00
Tel Aviv 1200	37.00
Tel Aviv 1300	37.00
Tel Aviv 1400	37.00
Tel Aviv 1500	37.00
Tel Aviv 1600	37.00
Tel Aviv 1700	37.00
Tel Aviv 1800	37.00
Tel Aviv 1900	37.00
Tel Aviv 2000	37.00

DOLLAR CROSSEXCHANGES (US)

LAST	CHANGE
Tel Aviv	37.00
Tel Aviv 100	37.00
Tel Aviv 200	37.00
Tel Aviv 300	37.00
Tel Aviv 400	37.00
Tel Aviv 500	37.00
Tel Aviv 600	37.00
Tel Aviv 700	37.00
Tel Aviv 800	37.00
Tel Aviv 900	37.00
Tel Aviv 1000	37.00
Tel Aviv 1100	37.00
Tel Aviv 1200	37.00
Tel Aviv 1300	37.00
Tel Aviv 1400	37.00
Tel Aviv 1500	37.00
Tel Aviv 1600	37.00
Tel Aviv 1700	37.00
Tel Aviv 1800	37.00
Tel Aviv 1900	37.00
Tel Aviv 2000	37.00

US COMMODITIES

LAST	CHANGE
Tel Aviv	37.00
Tel Aviv 100	37.00
Tel Aviv 200	37.00
Tel Aviv 300	37.00
Tel Aviv 400	37.00
Tel Aviv 500	37.00
Tel Aviv 600	37.00
Tel Aviv 700	37.00
Tel Aviv 800	37.00
Tel Aviv 900	37.00
Tel Aviv 1000	37.00
Tel Aviv 1100	37.00
Tel Aviv 1200	37.00
Tel Aviv 1300	37.00
Tel Aviv 1400	37.00
Tel Aviv 1500	37.00
Tel Aviv 1600	37.00
Tel Aviv 1700	37.00
Tel Aviv 1800	37.00
Tel Aviv 1900	37.00
Tel Aviv 2000	37.00

LONDON COMMODITIES

LAST	CHANGE
Tel Aviv	37.00
Tel Aviv 100	37.00
Tel Aviv 200	37.00
Tel Aviv 300	37.00
Tel Aviv 400	37.00
Tel Aviv 500	37.00
Tel Aviv 600	37.00
Tel Aviv 700	37.00
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Tel Aviv 1200	37.00
Tel Aviv 1300	37.00
Tel Aviv 1400	37.00
Tel Aviv 1500	37.00
Tel Aviv 1600	37.00
Tel Aviv 1700	37.00
Tel Aviv 1800	37.00
Tel Aviv 1900	37.00
Tel Aviv 2000	37.00

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

LAST	CHANGE
Tel Aviv	37.00
Tel Aviv 100	37.00
Tel Aviv 200	37.00
Tel Aviv 300	37.00
Tel Aviv 400	37.00
Tel Aviv 500	37.00
Tel Aviv 600	37.00
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Tel Aviv 800	37.00
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Tel Aviv 1300	37.00
Tel Aviv 1400	37.00
Tel Aviv 1500	37.00
Tel Aviv 1600	37.00
Tel Aviv 1700	37.00
Tel Aviv 1800	37.00
Tel Aviv 1900	37.00
Tel Aviv 2000	37.00

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

LAST	CHANGE
Tel Aviv	37.00
Tel Aviv 100	37.00
Tel Aviv 200	37.00
Tel Aviv 300	37.00
Tel Aviv 400	37.00
Tel Aviv 500	37.00
Tel Aviv 600	37.00
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Tel Aviv 1100	37.00
Tel Aviv 1200	37.00
Tel Aviv 1300	37.00
Tel Aviv 1400	37.00
Tel Aviv 1500	37.00
Tel Aviv 1600	37.00
Tel Aviv 1700	37.00
Tel Aviv 1800	37.00
Tel Aviv 1900	37.00
Tel Aviv 2000	37.00

LONDON METAL FIXES

LAST	CHANGE
Tel Aviv	37.00
Tel Aviv 100	37.00
Tel Aviv 200	37.00
Tel Aviv 300	37.00
Tel Aviv 400	37.00
Tel Aviv 500	37.00
Tel Aviv 600	37.00
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Tel Aviv 800	37.00
Tel Aviv 900	37.00
Tel Aviv 1000	37.00
Tel Aviv 1100	37.00
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Tel Aviv 1300	37.00
Tel Aviv 1400	37.00
Tel Aviv 1500	37.00
Tel Aviv 1600	37.00
Tel Aviv 1700	37.00
Tel Aviv 1800	37.00
Tel Aviv 1900	37.00
Tel Aviv 2000	37.00

FRANKFURT

LAST	CHANGE
Tel Aviv	37.00
Tel Aviv 100	37.00
Tel Aviv 200	37.00
Tel Aviv 300	37.00
Tel Aviv 400	37.00
Tel Aviv 500	37.00
Tel Aviv 600	37.00
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Tel Aviv 1600	37.00
Tel Aviv 1700	37.00
Tel Aviv 1800	37.00
Tel Aviv 1900	37.00
Tel Aviv 2000	37.00

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Pacific Mediterranean Capital Markets Group. Stock broking, Equity research, Money management, Corporate finance. Tel. 0972-9585877. Tel. 0972-9585896. E-Mail: melius@trendline.co.il. Contact: Elan Levi

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS				
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (22.2.98)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.710	4.710	4.910	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	5.540	5.590	5.590	
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.020	2.110	2.500	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.000	0.000	0.000	
Yen (10 million yen)				
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (3.3.98)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	Buy	Sell	BANKNOTES	Rep. Rates**
Currency basket	3.7933	3.8545		3.8220
U.S. dollar	3.5497	3.6070	3.48	3.5780
German mark	1.9540	1.9856	1.92	2.0094
Pound sterling	5.8439	5.9382	5.74	6.03
French franc	0.5827	0.5921	0.57	0.5874
Japanese yen (100)	2.8144	2.8598	2.76	2.8364
Dutch florin	1.7339	1.7619	1.70	1.7474
Swiss franc	2.4172	2.4562	2.37	2.4351
Swedish krona	0.4435	0.4507	0.43	0.4472
Norwegian krone	0.4681	0.4757	0.46	0.4715
Danish krone	0.5127	0.5210	0.50	0.5167
Finnish mark	0.8437	0.8541	0.83	0.8487
Canadian dollar	2.5007	2.5411	2.45	2.5195
Australian dollar	2.4173	2.4563	2.37	2.4351
S. African rand	0.7193	0.7310	0.65	0.71
Belgian franc (10)	0.9471	0.9624	0.93	0.9547
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7774	2.8222	2.72	2.7983
Italian lire (1000)	1.9851	2.0172	1.95	2.0010
Jordanian dinar	4.9825	5.0731	4.93	5.0243
Egyptian pound	1.0000	1.0900	1.00	1.0370
ECU	3.8680	3.9315		3.8986
Irish punt	4.8528	4.9311	4.76	5.00
Spanish peseta (100)	2.9061	2.9433	2.25	2.38
*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.				
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI				

Tel Aviv

There was slight profit taking on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange yesterday, and volumes were also down. The Tel Aviv 100 index fell 0.44 percent to 289.22 points. The Maof index fell 0.45 percent to 299.41 points.

Turnover was lively, albeit lower than previous days, and amounted to NIS 193 million. Bank Hapoalim's new sell option, which started trading yesterday, contributed more than NIS 24m. to the turnover.

The great advantage of the continuous trading method, which allows for securities trading throughout the day with much flexibility, sent Hapoalim's option flying to the top of the list of outstanding shares early on, and it remained there for the entire day, sometime falling slightly and other times rising slightly.

The price at which the option opened guaranteed an immediate profit for buyers in the issue: A price of 328, versus the price of 301 set for the issue. It will be recalled that estimates say the largest buyer in this issue was Tel Aviv. Altogether, buyers in the issue made a 10% profit.

The Bank Hapoalim share itself traded unchanged, on a high turnover of NIS 16m., an apparent consequence of the option activity and profit taking. Bank Leumi, which is still not showing any signs of pressure coming from the direction of its options, despite the fact that yesterday it was traded at zero premium, fell 0.9%, on turnover of more than NIS 8m.

Cla Insurance rose another 6%, still under the influence of reports of a possible investment in it by the German insurance company Allianz, at a far higher price than

the market price, but other insurance shares cooled down.

Europe

Europe's main bourses stalled yesterday, retreating from record territory as Wall Street fell and US Treasury yields rose back above the key six percent level in response to rate rise concern.

The UK's FTSE 100 retreated from record levels to close in negative territory for the first time in five sessions, dragged down by a flat Dow and with value-seeking investors turning their attention to smaller stocks.

Energy Group provided the main focus as a takeover battle sparked massive turnover, but the FTSE 100 ended down 12.9 points at 5,807.7 on volume of 1,026.6 million.

The FTSE 250, meanwhile, added 26.8 points or 0.5% to close at 5,281.4, another record high.

"The FTSE 250 has risen 200 points in the last few days," said one dealer. "The institutions are trying to look at value in the broader market rather than just the FTSE 100."

Continental bourses also paused for breath, depressed by declines in US shares triggered by concern that interest rates might rise, first-quarter corporate earnings prove disappointing, and the downgrade of a key computer stock.

Germany's blue-chip Xetra DAX index sank to its lowest level of the day as profit-taking took its toll after the market's recent ascent to record highs.

"There were no real fresh influences on the market this morning and now we are being weighed on by the US," one dealer said. By midday the Xetra DAX was down 32.86 points or 0.67% at

STOCKS

4,748.76. Earlier, the DAX closed down 20.40 points from 4,757.14, with its advance reflecting an adjustment to the previous day's post-bourse gains.

Dealers said there was sufficient money in the market for a test of 4,800 points this week and banking shares were firm as rumors about sector consolidation resurfaced.

Deutsche Bank AG, linked with J.P.Morgan & Co. Inc. in merger speculation, saw its shares rise 45 pennings to 126.20 marks after climbing to 127.70 earlier.

In London turnover was boosted by huge volume in bid target Energy Group which saw 98 million shares change hands as the battle for control intensified.

US group Texas Utilities raised the stakes with a bid at 840 pence per share, topping rival PacificCorp's 820 pence per share offer. Energy Group shares were up 3.8% at 836-1/2 pence.

Shares in Halifax Plc. were also active after the bank's maiden results, which were viewed as solid but not spectacular. The announcement of a £1 billion share buy back some time this year had

already been discounted, dealers said.

Berkovic makes a splash

In a country where Jewish sporting prowess has tended to be off, rather than on the field, it seems slightly strange to relate that one of the top news-sports stories of the week has concerned the top Jewish footballer in this country, Eyal Berkovic.

It would have to be "in" because there have been very few Jewish players from England. Berkovic has settled down to life in the old East End of London (the office at West Ham), and home, a relatively modest semi-detached residence in Golders Green. And for the most part, he has let his feet do the talking with some exciting and creative displays which have won him praise throughout the game.

But during the FA Cup game with Blackburn three weeks ago, Berkovic had a running feud with Billy McGinlay, and was also involved in that off-the-ball incident with Kevin Gallacher resulting in the Scotsman being sent off.

The video evidence was inconclusive, but Berkovic's post-match claim that the Blackburn players were making antisemitic comments during the game has had the phone lines buzzing and sports journalists on the case.

The matter came to a head last Wednesday in the replayed game between the clubs at Blackburn. While it is true that Berkovic was roundly jeered every time he touched the ball in the 55 minutes he was on the pitch, one Blackburn fan put the record straight when he phoned in to a BBC program after the game and said there was no hint of any racist remarks directed at Berkovic. The fans had merely been jeering the player. This view was

confirmed as accurate by reporters at the game.

On Friday, England's national Jewish newspaper, the *Jewish Chronicle* led with the story which seemed a somewhat knee-jerk reaction. Berkovic has been in the Premiership for nearly two seasons, and perhaps the most pleasing aspect of monitoring his progress, has been the excellent way he is handling the media.

His English has improved beyond recognition, he is regularly featured in the ubiquitous football glossies and he presents himself positively. But we were all left slightly bemused when he responded to questions over the alleged racist remarks by saying that he couldn't comment because the "government" was dealing with the matter. He declined to say which government.

These days the Labor government is getting more and more involved in sporting matters under the stewardship of the populist sports minister Tony Banks.

The "old" Laborite MP has done enough running between studios in the week to clock up at least a half-marathon distance. First there was Monday's meeting of MCC members who voted to keep the status quo firmly in place by continuing their tradition of excluding women from entering the pavilion at Lord's cricket ground.

Banks, whose fiery rhetoric has been somewhat tempered by his bosses in new Labor, did not hold back. "They (the MCC) haven't got a chance of any lottery money with

this decision. Women cricket lovers should march to Lord's in protest, and I'll lead the march," he told BBC Radio on Tuesday.

Lottery money is the last thing that members of this club would worry about, as most of them are well-heeled and clearly single-minded enough not to worry about the consequences of their decision.

Of greater significance for Banks was Thursday's news that the English FA are going to receive less than 4,000 tickets for each of the World Cup group qualifying matches in France. It appears that corporate sponsors are going to have a field day entertaining guests at games, at the expense of the carnival atmosphere which fans bring to the event.

To complicate matters, the French authorities are threatening to evict fans without appropriate tickets, if the tickets have not been bought through a licensed agent.

Football fans by definition are not usually in the type of income group which can afford a £2,000 day-round trip including flight, champagne meal and match ticket (you can already find the adverts in the quality newspapers), so there is bound to be confusion and no shortage of trouble as fans turn up at the venues hoping to somehow get a ticket.

But you can't put down the indomitable spirit of the British. Tickets are of minor importance when compared to the crucial issue of learning French for the tournament. And last week saw the launch of a crash course in the language held

at the unlikely pedagogic venue - Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club. Anyone who has had the pleasure of visiting Wolverhampton will know how difficult it is to understand the English on offer, but never mind, the local authority's initiative of setting up a French course for the World Cup is to be applauded.

The first lesson was full to the brim, as indeed were the stomachs of the majority of the class with most of the Midlands football teams' shirts straining to cover the portly figures wearing them. And yes, I'm sure it was all done for the cameras, but it was, to say the least, slightly embarrassing to see the poor teacher grappling with the French equivalent of "four lagers mate" and "where's the nearest hot-dog stall."

On the field, it was interesting to see the reaction to Stan Collymore's so-called renaissance. The out-of-form striker scored both goals in Aston Villa's 2-1 win over Liverpool, which gave new manager John Gregory - appointed in midweek to replace Brian Little who had resigned - a nice start to his career at Villa Park.

Collymore's goals came courtesy of a wicked deflection and a tap-in after a shot from Ian Taylor hit the post and rebounded to the striker. The word from the training ground is that Gregory is imposing a strict regime of discipline on the squad and has had a long chat with Collymore about what is expected. Some Villa fans may be more interested to know what is expected of Gregory whose managerial pedigree to date has been average-to-low in his tenure at Second Division Wycombe Wanderers.

'Shearer in bar brawl with teammate'

NEWCASTLE (AP) — Alan Shearer, England's clean-cut soccer captain, was linked by tabloid newspapers yesterday to a bar-room scuffle that left Newcastle teammate Keith Gillespie unconscious with head injuries.

Front-page reports in The Sun and Daily Star quoted witnesses as saying that Shearer punched Gillespie outside a trendy bar in Dublin on Sunday, with Gillespie falling to the pavement and splitting his head open.

The reports said the alleged incident occurred after Shearer, Gillespie and David Batty got into an argument at the Cafe en Seine bar. The players had flown to Dublin for a break following Saturday's 0-0 draw with Everton.

"The three of them were shouting," witness Duncan Brett was quoted as saying in The Sun. "Then I saw Shearer grab hold of Gillespie's collar with his left hand. He pulled Gillespie towards him and then pushed him away again. As he did that he hit him with his right hand."

"Gillespie fell and cracked his head on the floor. He was out cold. There was blood all over the pavement."

Gillespie was rushed to a hospital. He was released after being kept under observation for 24 hours.

Shearer denied there was any fight, saying, "He just slipped." Gillespie's agent, Ian Elliott, also dismissed the reports.

SPORTS

in brief

Spackman quits as Sheffield United manager

LONDON (Reuters) — Nigel Spackman quit as manager of English first division Sheffield United yesterday after only nine months in charge.

The club announced Spackman had stepped down "with immediate effect" but would remain as a player until the end of the season.

Spackman, the former Chelsea, Liverpool and Glasgow Rangers midfielder, apparently disapproved of the sale of key players.

Wise facing further ban after 11th booking

LONDON (Reuters) — Chelsea captain Dennis Wise is to face an English Football Association (FA) disciplinary hearing after accumulating 11 bookings this season, the worst record in the premier league.

His latest yellow card came on Saturday in the 1-0 defeat by runaway league leaders Manchester United.

Wise, who has already been suspended twice this season, is facing a lengthy ban which could rule him out of the Chelsea side for several key matches.

Bulgarian apologizes over spitting incident

GLASGOW (Reuters) — Scottish premier division club Aberdeen have decided against sacking Bulgaria midfielder Ilian Kirakov after he apologized for spitting on an opponent last Saturday.

Aberdeen manager Alex Miller fined Kirakov £8,000 — two weeks' wages — for spitting on Kilmarnock striker Jim McIntyre, despite an admission that he was "disgusted" with his own player.

Miller said: "Kirakov has been punished severely and he knows what he did is not acceptable."

The Bulgarian, who is on the transfer list, was sent off for the incident and is now suspended for the next three matches.

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MITSUBISHI L300 MINI VAN, 1994, DIESEL, double air conditioning, 88,000 km, stereo, clean as a whistle, bargain. Priced for quick sale. Tel. 02-993-1498, 050-316-715 (NS). (14527)

FORD TAURUS, 1993, 6 seater legally, 3800L, cruise control, power front seat, abs, air bag, 62,000 km., silver metallic, excellent condition. Tel. 050-356-299, 02-535-1268 (NS). (14563)

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MAZDA MPV, 1996, first hand, from private, excellent, like new, comfortable and safe, 8 passengers, all alarm and protection systems, includes low kilometers. Tel. 02-542-5008, 050-406-349. (16068)

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CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Shlomo Gronich continues to host his family concert series at the Jerusalem Music Center today (5) with a concert focusing on wind and brass instruments. Local musicians perform selections by Tchaikovsky, Bruckner, Arnold, Tchaikovsky, Brahms and other composers including a work by Gronich himself.

WORLD MUSIC

The first ever international We Hear the World festival of world music opens tonight and runs until Saturday at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center. The opening show features Afro ensemble Zap Mama (tonight at 9 and Friday at 5). Further attractions include Kudi Ergener and the Whirling Dervishes in classical religious Turkish music and dance (tomorrow at 9 and Friday at 10), sensational Brazilian star Marisa Monte and her band (tomorrow at 1 a.m. and Saturday at 9), Manu Dibango and the London Community Gospel Choir (Friday at 1 and Saturday at 5) and The Musicians of Rajasthan and Herminia Rodriguez Quintet (Friday at 1 a.m.).

Michael Ajzenstadt

French/Moroccan songstress Sappho and her company present *The Gardens of Andalusia* within the framework of the Holon Women's Festival. After a concert in Gaza earlier this week, she'll be at the Holon Theater tonight singing French and Moroccan ballads together with Spanish and Arabic songs. At 9 p.m.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

*** JOHN GRISHAM'S THE RAINMAKER - As the title makes clear, this film is a



Matt Damon is a Southern attorney in 'John Grisham's The Rainmaker.'

Grisham: in other words, a morality play about an idealistic rookie of a Southern attorney (Matt Damon this time around) who battles the corrupt and almighty powers-that-be (an evil insurance company) in his selfless pursuit of justice (payment of medical costs to the family of a young man dying of leukemia). For all its familiar elements, though, the picture sits differently from earlier movie adaptations of the writer's work. It's a looser, funnier, and more realistic affair and one that avoids for the most part the usual Grisham-esque descent into violent outlandishness. After a sluggish introductory section in which director Francis Ford Coppola seems to be poking around for the right tone, the film hits its stride and turns into a comedy - a courtroom farce on a serious theme. With smart narration by the journalist Michael Herr and fine performances by Danny DeVito, Jon Voight, Micky Rourke, Mary Kay Place and many others. (Parental guidance strongly advised.)

TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

8:30 News Flash
8:35 News in Arabic
8:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Oriental Studies
8:30 Family Album
9:00 Science
9:25 English
10:00 Programs for the very young
11:00 Science
11:40 The Environment
12:30 Music
13:00 Arts
13:30 Animation
15:00 The Enchanted World of Ballet

CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 Zap to 1 and
15:35 Rocky Yacoby
16:00 Mystery Isle
16:30 Boy Meets World
16:55 A New Evening
17:34 Culture
18:15 News in English
18:30 Teleshop
18:35 Street of Mirt
22:20 Royal Canadian Air Force
22:50 Lido
23:50 Entertainment Now

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Family Matters
19:00 Arabic News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

18:30 News Flash
19:53 Film on the Street
20:00 News
20:45 Conference Call
21:15 Field Reporter - Gilad Adin travels the country for stories behind the scenes
22:15 Dark Skies
23:05 Grace Under Fire
23:25 Film on the Street
23:30 News
00:00 Verse of the Day

CHANNEL 2 (22)

8:45 Today's programs
9:00 Rupert Bear
9:30 Chico with Tel-Ad
9:45 Polka with Tel-Ad
9:55 Thirtysomething
10:50 Picket Fences
11:40 Empty Nest
12:30 Brotherly Love
12:30 City Kids
13:00 Boogies Diner
13:30 Junior News
14:00 Time and Away
14:30 The 1st
15:00 Timon and Pumbaa; Quack Pack
15:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
15:50 Different Driving
17:00 Five with Rachel
17:30 Sport TV
18:00 Port Charles
18:30 Doctors A
20:00 News
20:30 Ramat Aviv
21:15 Hatzufim
21:45 Gov. Night
22:50 The X-Files
23:45 Homicide
00:00 News
00:05 Homicide (cont.)
00:45 Soap
1:10 Jazz Blues and Videopole Festival
2:05 On the Edge of the Sea

CHANNEL 3

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pine (rpt)
7:30 Live Story with Yossi Sages (rpt)
8:00 Sunset Beach
9:00 One Life to Live
9:45 The Young and the Restless
10:30 Days of Our Lives
11:15 Duke Area (rpt)
12:00 Love Boat
12:45 Hart to Hart
13:30 The Young and the Restless
14:00 Sunset Beach
14:50 Days of Our Lives
15:35 Murphy Brown
16:00 Duke Area
16:45 One Life to Live
17:30 Live Story with Yossi Sages
18:00 Good Evening with Guy Pine
18:45 Gov. Night
19:30 Local Broadcast
19:30 The Young and the Restless
19:45 Beverly Hills
20:05 Soap
20:25 Melrose Place
21:10 Profiler
22:00 Year Lapid Live at 10

JORDAN TV (31)

18:00 Holy Koran
18:10 Mr. Bogus
18:30 Conan the Adventurer
17:00 Cehaz
18:00 The End
18:30 Neighbors
19:00 La Journee
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 Police Academy
20:00 Hollywood Remembers
21:00 Local Magazine
21:30 Comedy A
22:00 News in English
22:30 Ministry
00:00 Country Music

MIDDLE EAST TV (24/27)

14:00 TV Shop
14:30 Body Electric
15:00 Basic Training
15:30 The 700 Club
16:00 Larry King
17:00 Gerbet
17:23 Creation Station
18:45 Mort & Phil
19:00 Jack Hanna
19:35 Walt T3 You Have Kids
19:00 Showbiz
19:30 World News
20:00 (Arabic)
20:00 Stockard Channing
20:25 Newhart
20:40 Movie: Dark Future
22:30 Movie Magic
23:00 The 700 Club
23:30 CNN News

CABLE

ITV 3 (33)

Broadcasts after coverage of Knesset sitting
15:00 Cartoons
16:30 Amores
17:30 From Day to Day
18:00 Wiseman of the Generations
19:00 News in Arabic
19:30 Teleshop
19:35 Street of Mirt
22:20 Royal Canadian Air Force
22:50 Lido
23:50 Entertainment Now

ETV 2 (23)

15:30 Echo Point
16:00 Mathematics
16:30 My City - St. Petersburg and Turin
17:30 Dear Brother
18:00 Dites Moi Tout
18:30 Matter of Taste
19:00 Oriental Studies
19:45
20:00 A New Evening
20:30 Tastes
21:00 New 20th Century
22:00 Business Communications
22:15 Family Link
23:00 Sharpe

CHANNEL 3

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pine (rpt)
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19:35 Police Academy
20:00 Hollywood Remembers
21:00 Local Magazine
21:30 Comedy A
22:00 News in English
22:30 Ministry
00:00 Country Music

MOVIE SHOWING (6)

11:30 Jack Reel, Search for Justice (1994) - a policeman investigating a death
12:00 The Full Monty (1997) - a Nebraskan gets pregnant from her stepbrother and has to

JERUSALEM CINEMATHEQUE

G.G. GIL Jerusalem Cinematheque 67984477 Tomorrow Never Dies-The Jackal - L.A. 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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori LewisArgentina
expected
in April

By ORI LEWIS

Israel will host Argentina in an international soccer friendly on April 15, according to reports yesterday.

Israel Football Association director general Ya'akov Erel told *The Jerusalem Post* last night that he had yet to receive official confirmation of the Argentines' arrival, but believed this was just a formality.

"I have heard the reports, but have yet to see an official document, although I believe this will arrive in the next day or so," he said.

The Argentines will be making what is now a traditional quadrennial pilgrimage to Israel.

The trend was set in 1986, when in May of that year, the side, led by Diego Maradona, humbled Israel 7-2 at the National Stadium in Ramat Gan. They then went on to win the World Cup in Mexico less than two months later.

In the following two visits the Argentines scored a 2-1 win in 1990 and a 3-0 win in 1994. But they failed to recreate the success of winning the World Cup following both occasions.

Israel coach Shimon Scharf had some good news yesterday when UEFA said that national team captain Tal Ben Haim would be available for the European Championship qualifier against Austria on September 5 in Austria.

Ben Haim had originally received a one-match suspension following the accumulation of yellow cards during the World Cup qualifying tournament but this has now been lifted.

The news delighted Scharf, who said: "Tal Ben Haim is an extremely vital player in our outfit and it increases the chances of succeeding in the first game."

The news was countered by UEFA's communication that Watford's Alan Hazen would not be available for the match after picking up a red card in the clash with Bulgaria last August.

Platini
defends
ticket
allocation

LONDON (Reuters) - The much-criticized ticketing arrangements for this year's soccer World Cup were defended yesterday by Michel Platini, president of the tournament's organizing committee.

Answering questions on the official World Cup website, Platini said there had been 10 times more applications than available tickets.

"We have found the right balance. There are 2.5 million tickets for the 64 matches and 25 million potential ticket buyers. If you add it all up, we are bound to disappoint people," Platini said.

British fans, with both Scotland and England in the finals, have voiced the main criticism, with Belgium and the Netherlands also angry with their small allocations.

Just over 9,000 tickets have been made available in total to England supporters for their three group qualifying matches against Tunisia, Romania and Colombia.

World governing body FIFA have stepped in to force the organizers to increase the numbers available to participating countries but Platini said the distribution was fair and that French fans had proved their enthusiasm.

"Between May 1996 and May 1997, we sold 1,270,000 tickets without people even knowing which teams had qualified," he said.

"And we are asked if we are worried? No, frankly."

Teamsystem edge Maccabi 96-93 in OT

By BRIAN FREEMAN

Teamsystem Bologna proved to be too much for Maccabi Tel Aviv, defeating the visiting Israelis 96-93 in overtime to go one game up in the best-of-three EuroLeague Final 16 series last night.

Carlton Myers scored 30 points, including nine in the overtime period, to lead Bologna to victory.

Maccabi must win Game 2 tomorrow at Yad Eliahu to force the third and deciding game back in Bologna next Thursday.

Tel Aviv roared back from as much as an 11-point deficit early in the second half to take a 75-70 advantage with only 2:30 left

in the game and appeared headed for its first win ever in Bologna.

This was in large part thanks to an incredible performance by Doron Sheffer, who scored 31 points on the night, including 20 in the second half.

But Teamsystem scored seven straight points in the next 1:30 to retake the lead, and Maccabi was only able to force the overtime when Myers missed a last-second shot after Rashard Griffith had knotted the score at 79-79 with 15 seconds left.

Maccabi tried to exploit the inside strength of Griffith in the first half by constantly getting the ball inside to him. Although he scored 13 points in the peri-

od, his efforts were not enough to offset the balanced offense of Teamsystem, which entered the locker room with a 43-35 advantage, including a three-pointer by David Rivers at the buzzer.

For Maccabi, Sheffer had 31 points, Oded Katash 28 (including 12-12 from the free-throw line, while the rest of the team was only 11-20 from the charity stripe), Griffith 23, Nadav Henefeld 6 and Borko Radovic 1.

Randy White, with four points, was the major disappointment.

Not only was he unable to get untracked offensively, but he had several turnovers and committed careless fouls. He received his fourth midway

through the first period, and was a non-factor throughout the game.

For Teamsystem, Myers had 30 points, David Rivers 21, Gregor Fucca 19, Dominique Wilkins 15, Roberto Chiocci 4, Paolo Moretti 3 and Stefano Arturia 1.

In other Final 16 results, CSKA Moscow defeated visiting Barcelona 81-79 in overtime.

The Russians, who were paced by Valeri Daineko with 16 points and Dmitri Domani with 14, trailed 39-38 at the half before forcing the game into the extra period with the score knotted at 70-70 at the end of regulation.

For Barcelona, Jerrod Mustaf had 17 and Marcelo Nicola 17.

In the earlier game at Bologna, Kinder Bologna routed Estudiantes Madrid 86-62 after taking a 39-27 advantage at halftime.

The leading scorers for Kinder Bologna were Predrag Danilovic with 23 points and Claudio Crippa and Alessandro Abbia with 19, and Hugo Sconochini 15.

For Estudiantes, Glen Whisby had 13 points, John Thompson 12 and Alejandro Escudero 8.

In another overtime contest, Alba Berlin defeated visiting PAOK Salonika, coached by Zvi Sherf 77-75. Alba trailed 36-35 at the half before tying the score at 69-69 to force the game into overtime. Halftime 35-36.

Berlin was paced by former Maccabi Tel Aviv player

Wendell Alexis with 21 points and Vassilij Karasev with 13.

For PAOK, Predrag Stojatovic led the way with 24 points, while Ronald Rowan had 21.

In Athens, Olympiakos lost to Partizan Belgrade (Yugoslavia) 78-74. Partizan, which led 35-29 at the half, was paced by Predrag Drobnjak with 16 points and Deyan Tomasevic with 15.

Milan Tomic had 19 for Olympiakos and Panayotis Fasoulas 18.

AEK Athens thrashed visiting Split 76-46 after leading 35-24 at the half. Willie Anderson led AEK with 15 points.

Efes Pilsen hosts Cibona Zagreb today in the remaining Final 16 Game 1 encounter.

Ronaldo gives Inter 1-0 win over Schalke

MILAN (Reuters) - Ronaldo scored a stunning first half goal as Inter Milan exacted a measure of revenge over holders Schalke 04 by beating them 1-0 in a UEFA Cup quarter-final first leg match last night.

After exchanging lightning-quick passes with French international Youri Djorkaeff, the Brazilian World Footballer of the Year burst into the penalty area and fired a left-foot shot past goalkeeper Jens Lehmann, who got his fingertips to the ball but could not hold it.

The Germans, who beat Inter 4-1 in a penalty shootout in last year's final, almost equalized before halftime when striker Martin Max saw his header cannon off the inside of Gianluca Pagliuca's right-hand post and bounce to safety.

Ronaldo, who had not joined Inter when the two sides met in last year's final, terrorised the visiting defence all evening and had two late appeals for penalties turned down.

Ajax 1, Spartak Moscow 3
In Amsterdam, Spartak Moscow, in their first competitive match since December 9, claimed a superb 3-1 win at Ajax Amsterdam.

Two goals from Alexander Shiroko and a third from Valery Kechinov six minutes from time made the Russian side firm favorites to progress to the last four.

Ajax, 15 points clear in the Dutch league, had the majority of the game but were let down by poor finishing.

Spartak's potent midfield showed early touches of skill and their fast counter-attacks saw Shiroko score after 26 and 52 minutes.

Shota Arveladze pulled one back in the 57th minute but Kechinov's late effort sent the Russians home happy.

Lazio 1, Auxerre 0

In Rome, second half substitute Pierluigi Casiraghi scored with his first touch of the match to give Lazio a 1-0 victory over Auxerre.

The Italian international striker came on for midfielder Giorgio



Lazio's Giuseppe Favalli (right) closes in on Auxerre's Steve Mariet during first-half action in their UEFA Cup quarter-final first leg match last night. (Reuters)

Venturin after 64 minutes of an open tie played at a furious pace in Rome's Olympic stadium.

Two minutes later, Czech Pavel Nedved swung over a cross, Auxerre defenders Franck

Rabarivony and Sabri Lamouchi misjudged it and Casiraghi stole in at the back post to fire the ball high into the net.

Lazio struggled in the closing 20 minutes after Yugoslav playmaker

Vladimir Jugovic was sent off for a second bookable offence, and Auxerre's French international forward Bernard Diomede almost found an equaliser with a curling left-foot free kick which fizzed off

the crossbar.

But the Rome side held on for their 11th consecutive home victory in all competitions - their 17th match in a row without defeat.

Athletic Madrid 1 Aston Villa 0
In Madrid, Athletic Madrid beat Aston Villa 1-0 through a 41st minute Christian Vieri 41. Israel's Avi Nimni came on as substitute in the 75th minute and had a good game.

Bayern-Dortmund clash steals
Champions Cup show

By STEPHEN WADE

LONDON (AP) - Bayern Munich vs. Borussia Dortmund in the European Champions Cup. If only this were the final.

"There is no doubt about this being a classic," said Bayern Munich President Franz Beckenbauer. "But on the other hand, the match is coming at the wrong time. I would rather have seen this matchup in the final."

As it is, the two German powers met tonight in Munich in the most talked about of the four Champions Cup first-leg quarterfinals. Dortmund are trying to defend their title and salvage the season. Bayern Munich are after Europe's biggest club prize, which they haven't won since 1976.

A third German team Bayer Leverkusen are home to Real Madrid, a co-favorite to win the cup a record-seventh time - but for the first time 1966. The other favorites are Manchester United - who last won this cup in 1968 - playing at Monaco.

Juventus, finalists in '96 and '97, is home to Ukraine's Dynamo Kiev.

Dortmund, returning to Munich's Olympic stadium where they upset Juventus to lift the cup 10 months ago, need to salvage something from '97-98. Dortmund are mired in 10th place in the Bundesliga and five points away from a UEFA Cup place next season. Winning this cup again is their best hope of returning to lucrative European play next time around.

Italian coach Nevio Scala has a healthy team, save for missing star defender Matthias Sammer, whose career is in jeopardy after four knee operations.

Bayern, losers over the weekend against lowly Cologne, dropped six points behind leaders Kaiserslautern as Italian coach Giovanni Trapattoni also points his side toward a big European payday.

"We are all depressed and we are very low," said Lothar Matthaus about the recent loss. "We can only hope for a miracle." It's a fact that one of the two German teams will reach the semifinals. But if Leverkusen also does, it will be an even bigger story in Germany.

Leverkusen, who have never won a Bundesliga title, qualified for the Champions League as league runners up. The unglamorous side have surprised right into the quarterfinals. And now come storied Real Madrid.

"My greatest wish is that the Spaniards are unable to forget us after the two legs," said Leverkusen coach Christoph Daum.

Daum claims he knows how to cause problems for Real Madrid, who have been struggling lately. But he isn't saying how.

Real Madrid have a German coach in Jupp Heynckes, who ran the team through practice behind closed doors before leaving for Germany. Real's best news is the return of sweeper Fernando Hierro, the team leader, who is also joined by Croatian Davor Suker, Brazil's Roberto Carlos and Spanish international Raul Gonzalez Blanco.

Manchester United were just as happy to draw Monaco as Real Madrid were to get Leverkusen. And United, who won their one and only Champions Cup in 1968, also play the first leg away.

United have all but clinched their fifth Premier League title in six seasons, but manager Alex Ferguson's only goal is Europe.

Monaco's ambitious coach Jean Tigana has similar ideas.

United are loaded with young, already established English internationals led by David Beckham, Gary Neville, Nicky Butt and Paul Scholes. Monaco can counter with Thierry Henry, the top scorer in the first six Champions League games with six goals, and Victor Ikpeba Nosa.

However, Monaco got bad news yesterday when Argentine-born David Trezeguet, the No. 2 scorer in France, was ruled out with a knee injury.

Manchester United's Andy Cole has five goals in the competition.

Italy's lone representatives are Juventus, who slipped into the final eight as one of the two-best second place teams in group play. In Dynamo Kiev, the Italians meet a side that fields most of Ukraine's national team.

Juventus, leading Serie A, are led by striker Alessandro Del Piero, who has 15 goals in 20 Champions Cup career matches. He is partnered up front by Filippo Inzaghi, who has two goals this year in Europe.

Juventus won the title in '96 and lost to Dortmund in last year's final. Dynamo Kiev has tremendous individual talent, led by striker Andriy Shevchenko and Andriy Gushin. Gone from the money-short team that powered its way into the final eight is Yuri Maximov, who was recently sold to Werder Bremen.

"I saw Dynamo against Barcelona," said Dutch midfielder Edgar Davids. "They are strong, fast and dangerous. And since they'll be playing the favored team, Dynamo will play the match of their lives against us."

Destroyer Walsh poised
for Windies record

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (Reuters) - Courtney Walsh, whose Test cricket future was uncertain seven weeks ago, is now on the threshold of becoming West Indies' greatest wicket-taker.

Walsh's three for 25 in the demolition of England's second innings in the fourth Test on Monday left him needing just 10 more wickets to beat Malcolm Marshall's West Indian Test record of 376.

The 35-year-old fast bowler's match record of five for 72 took his tally to 367 wickets in his 100th Test. He has two Tests of the series remaining - in Barbados on March 12-16 and in Antigua on March 20-24 - in which to overtake Marshall.

Walsh was replaced as West Indies captain by Brian Lara in the wake of their 3-0 Test series drubbing in Pakistan last year and considered his playing future before announcing in mid-January he would be available against England.

The Jamaican said then that beating Marshall's mark was not his motive for playing on.

"I would like to beat the record but it will only mean anything if I can



NEARING A RECORD - Courtney Walsh. (Reuters)

help West Indies to victory," Walsh said.

He is certainly striving to fulfill that aim, with West Indies 2-1 ahead in the series after their 242-run win at Bourda on Monday - a result that was a fitting testimony to the high quality, stamina and durability of both Walsh and Curtly Ambrose.

Ambrose, who was below his best in his impending retirement before the England tour started, finished the fourth Test with match figures of six for 59.

It lifted his series tally to 23 wickets and his overall Test career haul to 330. Ambrose, whose unrelenting accuracy remains a key element of his success, continues to torment England captain Michael Atherton.

Atherton's dismissal on Monday, lbw to Ambrose for one, was the second time in the match and the 14th occasion in Tests that the giant Antiguan has taken his wicket.

England's beleaguered skipper now has a mere 96 runs from seven innings in the rubber, following his moderate form in last year's Ashes series when he scored 257 runs in 12 innings.

Doby elected to Hall of Fame

TAMPA, Fla. (Reuters) - Larry Doby, who became the first black player in the American League just three months after Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in baseball, was elected to the Hall of Fame yesterday by the Veterans Committee.

Also elected by the 14-member Veterans Committee were Negro Leagues star Bullet Joe Rogan, executive Lee MacPhail and turn-of-the-century player George Davis, who all received at least 11 votes, or 75 percent of the panel.

Individuals are considered in four categories: former major-league players, players from the pre-1900 era, Negro League players and a composite category consisting of

managers, executives, umpires and pioneers.

Doby debuted with the Cleveland Indians on July 5, 1947, and the next year helped lead the team to its last World Series title.

Over a 13-year career, including 10 seasons with the Indians, Doby hit 283 with 253 homers and 969 RBIs. In 1950, the slugging outfielder batted a career-high .326. He drove in over 100 runs on four occasions.

Prior to joining the Indians, Doby starred for the Newark Eagles of the Negro National League.

Doby's uniform No. 14 was retired by the Indians during the 1994 season.

Handwritten note: "Jp 11/15/50"